Entertainment / A2-8
Jericho Rosales a star in Malaysia

■ Across / A17
Wage hikes OKd in Visayas, Mindanao

■ 2bU! / F1
Shaping youth leaders who make a difference

■ News/ A2
Most issues between gov't, MILF settled

■ World / A11
France has new prime minister; reforms unlikely

Seize 'jueteng' lords' money, gov't urged

DAGUPAN CITY—Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday called on the government to seize the ill-gotten money of the "jueteng" lords and give it all to the *cobradores* and *cabos*—the bet collectors—to help them earn a living and send their children to school.

"There must be billions stacked here and there by the jueteng lords and their payola

SEIZE/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Text messages swamp PNP: 'Jueteng' still on

By Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

TELECOM ANG NAKA JACKPOT!

IT'S A good way to get new textmates.

After declaring last week that Luzon was "jueteng"-free, the Philip-

TEXT/ A21

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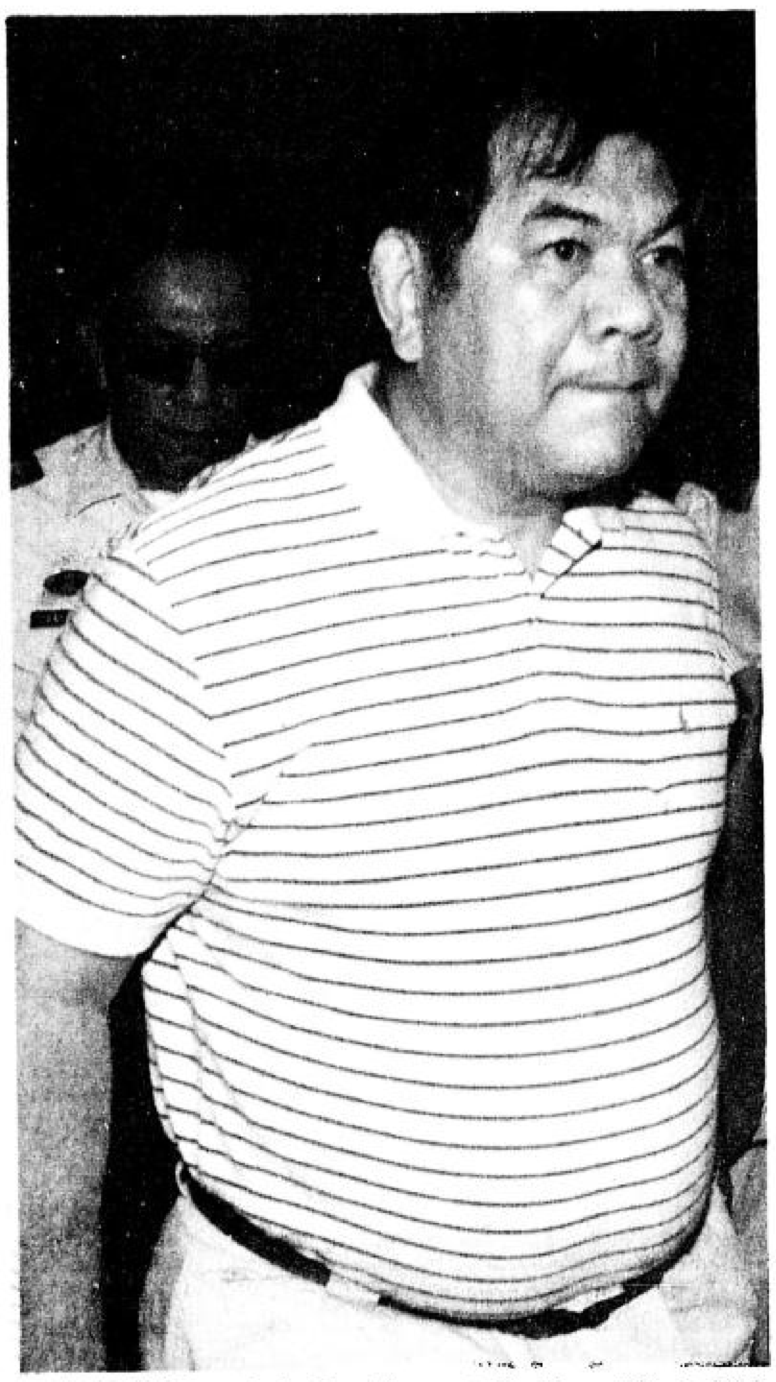

RETIRED Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia is escorted by Provost Marshal Col. Henry Galarpe after the Sandiganbayan ordered his arrest. RYAN LIM

4 bagmen next to face probers

Cruz: Witnesses collected for top execs

By Christian V. Esguerra

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz has at least four more witnesses to bolster the testimony of a confessed "jueteng" operator linking government officials, including President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest child, to the multibillion-peso underground numbers game.

The four—all jueteng "bagmen"—will provide the "missing link" between ex-operator Wilfredo Mayor and the high-profile people to whom he said he had given monthly payoffs, according to the Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop.

Despite his explosive testimony on Monday at the Senate investigation on jueteng, Mayor, 50, admitted having no hard evidence to take to court Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and the others he had named. He said the jueteng system operated by word of honor and did not involve a paper trail.

But the four new witnesses had "personal encounters with some of the big names [mentioned by Mayor] because they were the bagmen," Cruz told the INQUIRER yesterday. "They actually delivered the money."

He said the four bagmen contacted him through various go-betweens even before Mayor, barangay chair of Tagas, Daraga, Albay, decided to come forward.

They were initially prepared to testify before the Senate and even before the courts, he said, but were discouraged when Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez threatened to throw the book at jueteng whistle-blowers.

"They're really afraid," the archbishop said. He said the four witnesses were waiting to see "what would happen to Mayor in the coming days" before deciding to come out or stay hidden.

They are apprehensive that Mayor will be charged in court for admitting that he used to be a jueteng operator, or worse, be liquidated by the people he has tagged, Cruz said.

The jueteng bagmen who earlier spoke with the INQUIRER and claimed to have collected payoffs for Congressman Arroyo and his father, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, are staying in safe houses in the company of members of the

4 BAGMEN/ A4

Senate calls on Pineda to testify

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

PINEDA: Whereabouts unknown.

ALLEGED gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda of Pampanga is among the next witnesses the Senate will call to testify on "jueteng." But where is the reclusive town mate of President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Close relatives said Pineda left for the United States last month, but two executives at the Pampanga capitol disputed the report, saying he was at a resort in Bataan.

The Bureau of Immigration said it didn't know.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the public order committee, said Pineda was among the suspected big-time jueteng operators the senators would summon to their investigation.

The alleged money conduits for Representative Mikey Arroyo, whose names Mayor had mentioned—like Arthur "Catoy" Nagit, Leo Katigbak and Rene Maglanque—will also be invited, Villar said.

Gener David, who allegedly received payola for Camp Crame, and Chief Supt. Victor

SENATE/ A4

Court orders arrest of Garcia; no bail set

By Nelson Flores and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has found sufficient evidence to hold retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia liable for amassing ill-gotten wealth amounting to P303.2 million, and the court yesterday ordered his arrest.

No bail was set for Garcia, a former comptroller of the Armed Forces. But no arrest warrants were issued for his wife Clarita and their sons—Ian Carl, Juan Paolo and Timothy Mark.

The family is facing plunder charges before the second division of the antigraft court. Plunder is a nonbailable offense that has death as the maximum penalty.

Justice Edilberto Sandoval, head of the court's second division, ordered law enforcement agencies to arrest Garcia and "bring him before us as soon as possible."

Garcia, 56, was taken from military custody despite the efforts of his lawyers to block his transfer from the compound of the Intelligence Service of the

COURT/ A22

Bunye says witness' testimony just hearsay

By Christine O. Avendano

EITHER you're seeing the genuine article, or you're seeing a marionette. Depends on who is talking.

"This particular witness will not go there on his own … Somebody must have coached this witness to go there," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday, referring to "jueteng" operator-turned-informer Wilfredo Mayor.

Bunye urged the public to be "discriminating" when looking at Mayor's testimony in the Senate linking the President's elder son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, other lawmakers and some other officials to the illegal numbers game.

"Who asked him to be there?" Bunye said.

Mayor was brought to the Senate hearing by Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

In radio interviews, the Palace official emphasized that Mayor's testimony was purely hearsay and that the witness himself had admitted he had no evidence to back his claim that the younger Arroyo benefited from gambling payoffs.

He said Malacañang considered Mayor's testimony to be "without value and not supported by evidence."

Over RMN radio, Bunye said: "We should be careful in accepting supposed evidence. We have to be able to distinguish between facts and hearsay."

Bunye acknowledged though that for now the accusations

BUNYE / A22

Canadian bet is crowned Miss Universe

BANGKOK—Miss Canada Natalie Glebova was crowned Miss Universe 2005 in Bangkok yesterday in the climax of a beauty pageant that once again stumbled into controversy.

Glebova, a 23-year-old motivational speaker from Toronto, succeeded last year's winner, Australian Jennifer Hawkins, after the usual evening gown and swimsuit parades that pulled in TV viewers worldwide but outraged feminists and traditionalists.

Even though hotly tipped for the title, the final announcement appeared to stun Glebova, who moved to Canada from her native Russia only 11 years ago.

"This is all happening too fast and it's unreal. It's slowly starting to sink in," she told reporters moments after being crowned with the glittering, diamond-encrusted Miss Universe tiara.

Dressed in a long white evening dress, she hugged her parents on stage and then praised her new homeland for giving her and her family the chance to start a new life.

"When we came 11 years ago, we came

CANADA/ A22

MISS Universe 2005 Natalie Glebova of Canada greets the crowd in traditional Thai gesture after winning the beauty pageant in Bangkok. Once again, the contest was mired in controversy. REUTERS

Mikey cancels US trip to clear name

By Michael Lim Ubac

PAMPANGA Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo yesterday called off his US trip, saying he owed it to his family and constituents to clear his name of allegations he had received monthly "jueteng" payoffs of P600,000 while he was vice governor of his province.

The Philippine National Police, including Director General Arturo Lomibao, Albay Rep. Carlos Imperial and two associates of Mikey Arroyo also denied claims by former jueteng operator Wilfredo Mayor that they had benefited from the illegal numbers racket.

The National Bureau of Investigation declined immediate comment on Mayor's charge that the NBI received P148,000 in jueteng payola. "We will just wait for further developments," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

"I've decided to face my detractors. I owe it to my family and my district to clear my name. I have nothing to do with jueteng," Arroyo, the elder son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, told reporters.

He had earlier said he had promised to attend Philippine Independence Day celebrations in Chicago and could not be stopped from making the trip. But after Mayor alleged that a bagman had told him that Arroyo was on the jueteng take, the Pampanga congressman said he decided to cancel his trip.

Arroyo indicated that, if summoned, he would appear before the Senate committee investigating the jueteng controversy. But he challenged Mayor to present his testimony formally before the authorities so he could be made accountable for his allegations.

"This is nothing but black propaganda of the most sordid kind. We have never been involved in illegal activities, like jueteng, and we remain solidly against the legalization of jueteng for that matter," he said.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, denounced May-

MIKEY/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao including Palawan will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/01/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Most issues between gov't, MILF settled

DARAPANAN, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao—Negotiations to end the decades-old Muslim insurgency have reached their final stages, officials from the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front said yesterday.

Government and rebel negotiators had settled about 80 percent of the issues relating to "ancestral domain," or the Muslim minority's right to profit from the resources of their traditional area, said MILF chair Ebrahim Murad.

"The MILF and the government are in the final stretch of their peace talks," Murad told reporters at the rebels' Darapanan camp at the end of three days of consultations with tens of thousands of supporters from all over Mindanao.

"Except for governance, only some minor unresolved issues on the three strands of ancestral domain—concept, territory and resources—remain to be discussed by the parties," Murad said.

"I am very hopeful they will get past these issues," he said without elaborating.

The chief government negotiator Silvestre Afable said the next round of talks are to be held in Malaysia next month.

Murad stressed that the MILF will not settle for autonomy status and fall into the same trap as the Moro National Liberation Front, from which it split in 1978. Opting for limited self-rule, the MNLF dropped its independence bid in 1996 and signed a peace agreement with the government.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was created, made up of five Muslim-majority provinces, but the area remains mired in poverty after the rebels refused to disarm, discouraging investments.

Murad said an independent Islamic state in Mindanao remains an option for the MILF even as the rebels are considering other possible solutions to the conflict.

He said they have begun studying the experiences of East Timor, Sudan, Bosnia and others as models of conflict resolution.

"We can see experiences of some peoples in the world with similar problems as that of the Bangsamoro (Moro nation) people. This would serve as our guide, but at this point in time, we cannot be specific on what will be the new formula," Murad said.

He said a referendum in Muslim-dominated areas of Mindanao should be part of the consultation process, noting that in the past "outsiders" had dictated how the Muslims should govern themselves.

"We must have an arrangement wherein the Bangsamoro people, as a nation, can enjoy their right to govern themselves, determine their future, enjoy their way of life," the 56-year-old guerrilla leader said.

"If this can be satisfied, then the Bangsamoro people can be peace-loving," he said.

Afable said both sides were looking at various "models" on how to resolve the conflict in terms of governance for the Muslims. Both sides were now going to find out "what are constitutionally feasible" options, he said.

"One of the mechanisms is a referendum, and we might be able to come up with a model that will require a referendum. I do not discount that," Afable said.

Murad said the results of the MILF consultations would be presented to the government during the resumption of the talks in Malaysia.

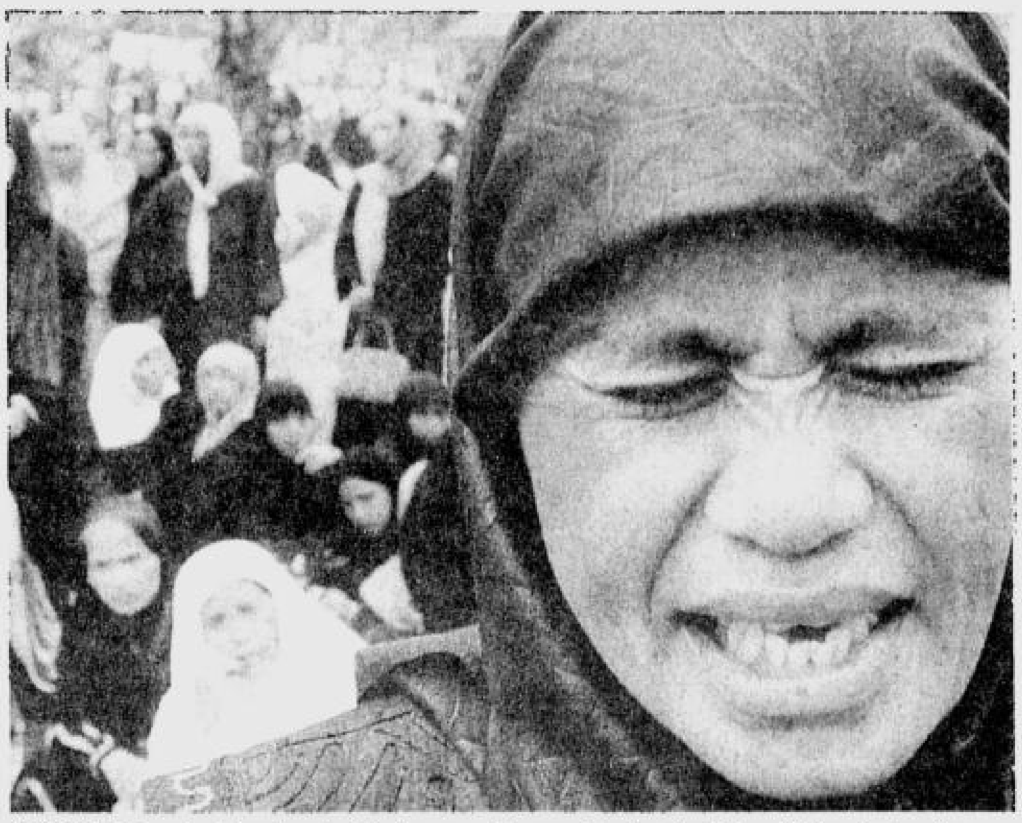
Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said one solution being considered was the federal system of government.

"We are keen on the idea as an alternative to our insistent demand for an independent Islamic state," he said.

"Many participants wanted a separate state for the Bangsamoro and a much larger area embracing Minsupala (Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan)," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

Teresita Quintos-Deles, the presidential assistant on the peace process, said the Constitution would have to be amended for a federal system to be implemented.

Afable said the government would wait for the consolidated report of the three-day gathering. *AFP and Reuters with Edwin O. Fernandez, Jeoffrey Maitem, Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



HEYRON Gagadas Piam bursts into tears as she narrates her family's suffering during the bombing of the Buliok complex by government forces several years ago. Saying "we don't want war, we are tired," Piam was one of the thousands who attended the three-day consultation called by the MILF.

VAL HANDUMON

Unesco cites Christian-Muslim dialogues

THE COUNTRY'S increasing use of Christian-Muslim dialogues to win peace in Mindanao has earned the Philippines a lead role in United Nations efforts to replicate the same practice in conflict areas around the world.

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has adopted an RP-led resolution dubbed the "Promotion of Intereligious Dialogue" as its flagship activity for 2006 and 2007.

Such recognition from Unesco came after the Philippine experience in interfaith dialogues—from the local, national and regional levels -- had been offered as a "model for other countries," the DFA said.

Among the examples cited were the Bishops-Ulama Forum, a body of influential community leaders representing Christians, Muslims, and indigenous peoples in Mindanao; the Peace Center based in Zamboanga; and the group Mindanao Peaceweavers.

DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo said Unesco's decision "gives our country great pride and validates our government's commitment to harnessing inter-religious cooperation as an important means to pursue peace." *Volt Contreras*

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Pinay claims contact with another straggler

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The search for two alleged Japanese stragglers who have been reported hiding in the jungles of Mindanao since the end of World War II has taken an edible turn with yet another claim that one more suspected soldier of the Japanese Imperial Army was living in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur.

Marilyn Belderol-Nagaki, a Filipino resident of this city who was formerly married to a Japanese, made the claim yesterday during a press conference at the Bombo Radyo station here.

The press conference was arranged by Jun Albino Quinlog, Bombo Radyo Cagayan de Oro station manager, at the prompting of the city mayor. Balderol-Nagaki was mobbed by Japanese journalists who, for the past four days, had joined the media frenzy in the search for the stragglers.

Belderol-Nagaki wrote the Japanese government last year claiming to have met a certain Sakurai, a supposed Japanese Imperial Army soldier, in Cabanglasan, Bukidnon.

Belderol-Nagaki told the Japanese journalists that Sakurai had begged her for help, saying, "I am a soldier from Japan (and) I want to go home to Japan."

But in a sudden departure from her previous claim of having met the Japanese soldier, Belderol-Nagaki said Sakurai died last year.

She also said that she was unable to "see" Sakurai in their supposed meeting three years ago because it was held at dawn.

When pressed for further information, Belderol-Nagaki claimed that Sakurai, believed to be around 80 years old at the time of their meeting, had walked the entire distance from Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, to Cabanglasan, Bukidnon.

Belderol-Nagaki said Sakurai even gave her a war-time Japanese flag with Japanese characters said to represent the names of his comrades.

Members of the Japanese media, however, expressed doubt on the authenticity of her claim. A reporter of TV Asahi, Takayuki Yamano, said reporters from Japan had grown skeptical about the existence of surviving Japanese Imperial Army soldiers.

The other day, Japan pulled out its diplomats from General Santos City after four days of fruitless attempts to check reports that two surviving Japanese soldiers had been hiding in Mindanao since the end of the war.

A shadowy Japanese mediator had told Japanese diplomats that interviews with the two soldiers should be done "at a later date," prompting embassy officials to recall its staff to Manila. *J. B. Deveza and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Group behind Boracay resort not listed—SEC

By Fe Zamora and Philip C. Tubeza

THE FOUNDATION that allegedly accepted donations to fund the construction of a 60-room resort for the military is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, contrary to claims of a ranking military general who defended the controversial project on Boracay.

An INQUIRER request for the records of Kaibigan ng mga Kawal sa Kapuluan (KKK), which was named by Central Command chief Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio as the group behind the project, yielded negative results.

According to the SEC's Public Reference Unit, the KKK has not been issued an SEC number. A check at the SEC office that processes applications for registration also yielded negative results.

But it could be possible that the group had "applied to reserve the name KKK," a functionary at the SEC registration office said.

A "reservation" would be valid for of 90 days, according to the SEC.

In defending the construction of the 60-room resort for the military on world-famous Boracay, Teodosio said the project was funded by donations from businessmen, veterans and well-meaning citizens who had organized themselves into the KKK.

Teodosio also said the KKK was recently formed as a non-stock and non-profit organization.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu yesterday denied that the resort was his brainchild.

The resort was planned and funded by a private foundation to halt the growing number of broken marriages in the military. And if more funds are available, similar resorts would be set up in Baguio and Palawan, another general said at the House hearing on national defense.

"I would like to categorically say that this project is not my project and I do not know the details of this," Abu said.

"I know the project because I was told by General Teodosio. So that's all I know about this. There was no paper that was sent to me seeking my approval because I understand this is a project of a non-governmental organization which the Armed Forces has no dealings with," he added.

Teodosio said KKK, which includes military officials, came up with the project last October.

"This project was conceived, envisioned and started by the officers and men of the Central Command in cooperation with the KKK foundation," he said.

Teodosio said both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz knew about it. He added that Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, a former armed forces chief of staff, even contributed P5,000.

Abused patients urged to come out

OUTGOING Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday invited victims of patient abuse at certain government hospitals to see him as part of an official investigation into the matter.

The invitation was triggered by an INQUIRER report detailing how some doctors and nurse verbally and physically abused laboring mothers at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila.

"I'm sure a lot of these things happened but if you have specifics, it'll be better," Dayrit told the INQUIRER yesterday in an interview.

The Fabella management yesterday sent the INQUIRER a faxed message in which it assured the public it would "not tolerate unprofessional acts in this facility."

"If there are occasional lapses observed in carrying out the work by some of our employees and health workers, (the) management has been consistent in (its) principle of providing quality health care in the most compassionate manner," Dr. Jeffrey B. Leonardo, Fabella OIC, said.

Three INQUIRER sources said they had separately witnessed instances where doctors and nurses cursed at and scolded women in labor, apparently for the women's failure to use artificial birth control methods.

One of the sources yesterday recalled seeing a nurse pull a laboring mother by her pubic hair to force her into a better position on the delivery table.

Leonardo said the hospital would welcome any investigation into the alleged mistreatment of patients. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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NO SMOKING REM ZAMORA
Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes holds a one-man protest outside the Philip Morris offices on Ayala Avenue in Makati City in observance of World No Tobacco Day yesterday. According to the World Health Organization, tobacco kills five million people worldwide every year. In the Philippines, 56.3 percent of male adults still smoke.

Reds reject gov't cease-fire call

COMMUNIST guerrillas rejected yesterday a cease-fire which they said the government was seeking as a precondition for the resumption of suspended peace talks.

President Macapagal-Arroyo shelved attempts to bring a negotiated solution to the 36-year Maoist rebellion last year and ordered a review of the peace process, which began in 1986, that has essentially led to nowhere.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has since communicated to the National Democratic Front (NDF) that Manila was open to resuming peace talks once the rebels agreed to a truce, Netherlands-based rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said in a statement.

"The (government of the Republic of the Philippines) precondition of a cease-fire before the resumption of formal talks is not acceptable," said Jalandoni, whose organization represents the Communist Party of the Philippines and the 8,000-strong New People's Army at the talks.

"Romulo unfairly lays the burden of resuming the formal peace talks between the (government) and the (NDF) on the revolutionary movement by calling on the NPA to sign a cease-fire agreement," Jalandoni said.

Jalandoni also urged the government to uphold interim agreements with the rebels that he said would require Manila to convince the United States and its Western allies to de-list the rebel group from their "foreign terrorist organization" blacklists. *AFP*

Greenpeace protests coal-fired power plants

By Christine Gaylican

GREENPEACE activists yesterday stormed Mirant Corp.'s headquarters in Manila bearing banners branding the American power company a toxic polluter and climate killer.

Rappelling down the facade of the Mirant building, the Greenpeace protesters, however, were apprehended for trespassing on the company's premises on Roxas Boulevard.

In a report, Greenpeace said results of tests on ash byproducts taken from Mirant's coal power plants in Toledo City found the presence of mercury, a known carcinogen.

"Mirant is gambling with people's lives with the planned expansion of its climate-killing toxic-producing coal plants," said Red Constantino, Greenpeace Southeast Asia Regional Energy Campaigner.

"Habitual polluters like Mirant must not be allowed to expand their polluting operations," Constantino said.

The Greenpeace report titled "Coal Fired Power and Mirant: Climate Killers and Toxic" also showed that Mirant's goal of expanding its coal operations in the Philippines by a total of 650 megawatts over the next six years would produce a total of 6.15 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.

Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas responsible for global climate change, Greenpeace said.

Constantino noted that carbon dioxide emissions from Mirant's 1,200-megawatt Sual coal plant alone were equivalent to more than 570 billion jeepneys simultaneously traveling one kilometer.

"Mirant's expansion plans will add the equivalent of another 370 billion jeepneys to the country," he said.

The Greenpeace report cited recent studies by the United States National Academy of Sciences that showed how methyl mercury emissions, even at low levels, could cause life-long loss of intelligence in hundreds of thousands of children born yearly.

Going by the 25-pound average mercury emission rate per 100 MW coal plant, the combined 650-MW of additional coal-fired power that Mirant is proposing to build in the Philippines would potentially emit over 162 pounds of mercury each year, the Greenpeace report said.

"This appalling amount has wide-ranging and deadly consequences to the country's environmental and human health. We call on the Senate to immediately resume investigation of Mirant's dirty designs and to compel the company to stop its expansion plans," Constantino said.

For its part, Mirant said it has complied with and exceeded all pertinent environment rules and regulations such as the Clean Air Act and World Bank and US Environment Protection Agency standards.

Mirant public affairs manager Greggy Romualdez, in a statement, said "All our power plants utilize the latest available technologies to ensure that operations do not have any adverse effects on the environment. Our plants in Sual (Pangasinan), Pagbilao (Quezon) and Toledo are ISO 14001-certified, a tribute to their world-class environment management systems."

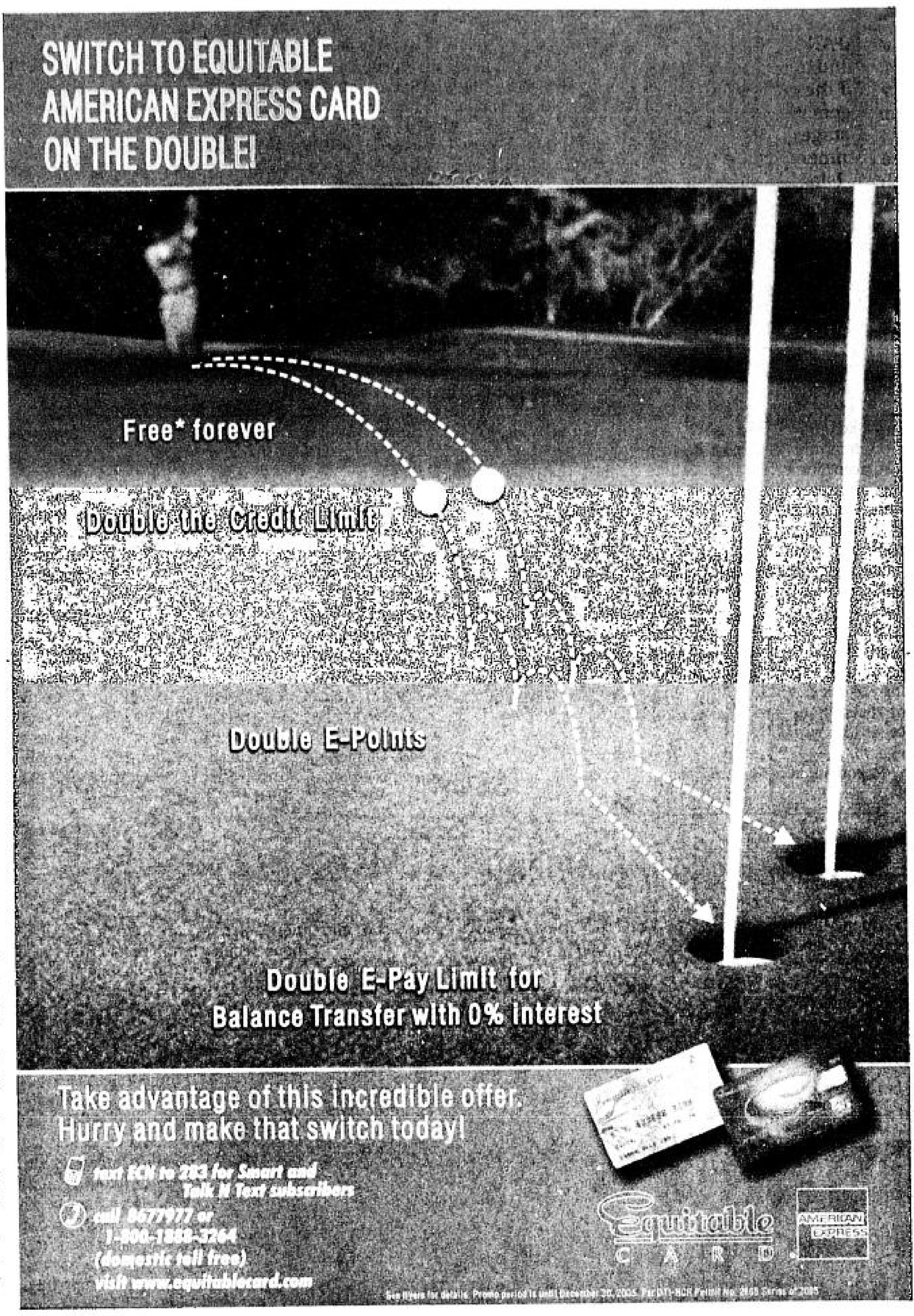
Greenpeace exposed the toxic emissions from coal-fired power plants in 2001 and 2002, detailing hazardous releases from plants operating in Luzon, including Mirant's Sual power plant – the largest in the country.

A Mirant company official said the mercury emissions of its plant were within "tolerable levels" over the years.

The company intends to build another 100-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Barotac Viejo, Iloilo, and upgrade its Toledo City coal plant.

Mirant said this was the company's response to the increasing demand for electricity in the country, especially the Visayas region, by 2006.

Greenpeace said that instead of the hazardous coal plants, the country should depend more on environment-friendly power sources such as the wind and the sun.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Reverse process, senator urges pre-need firms

By TJ Burgonio

PRE-NEED companies should be required to increase the amount of money or assets that they deposit into their trust funds right from the beginning of a plan, instead of being allowed to use up much of the plan holders' money for their operations, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas said yesterday.

Roxas noted that the usual practice of pre-need companies was to deposit a mere 5 percent of the gross price of a pre-need plan in the first year, increasing this to 20 percent in the second year and at least 70 percent in the third, fourth and final years.

The senator said that to ensure the protection of plan holders, this process should be reversed.

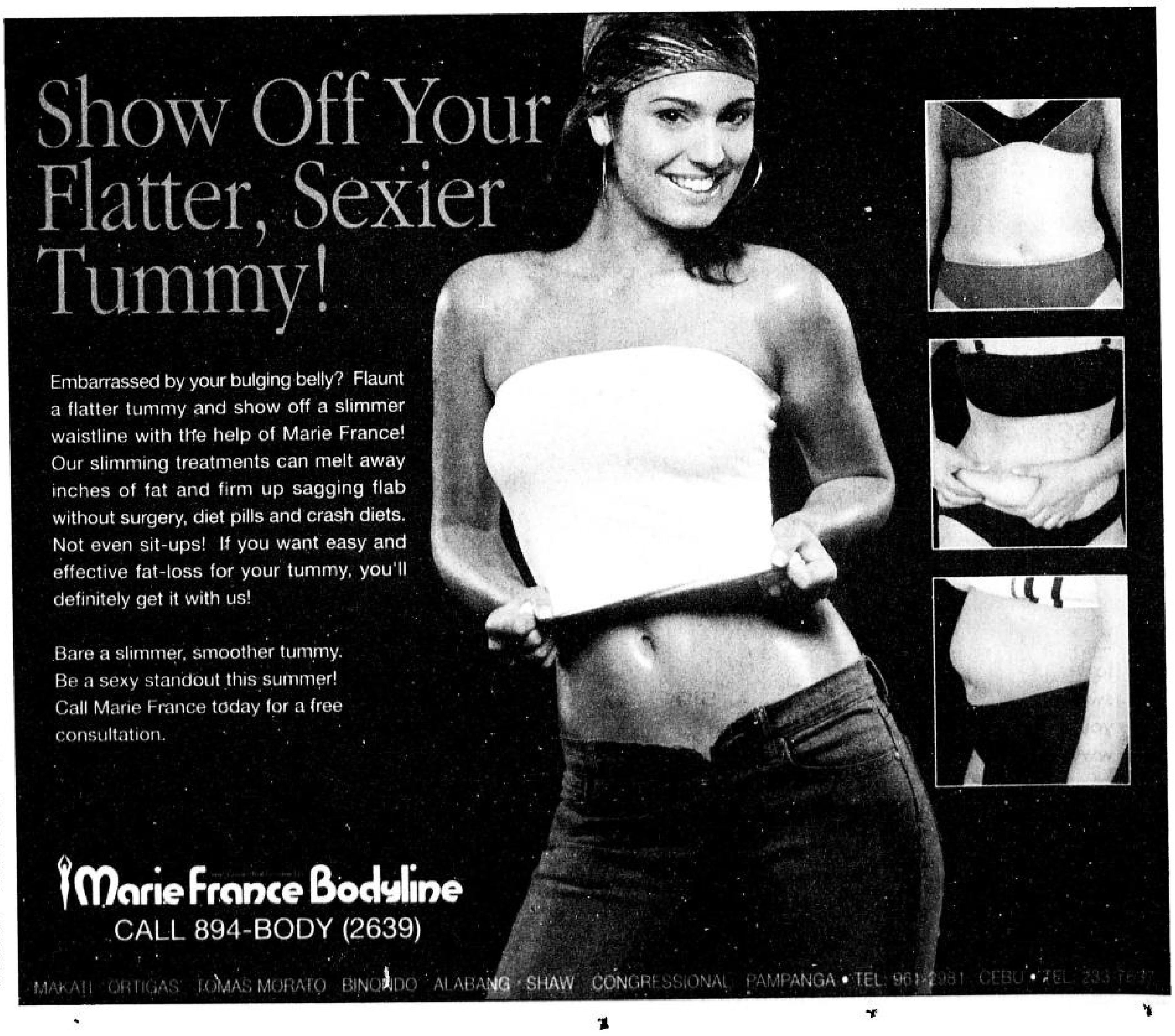
"Instead of saying that just 5 percent of what they pay in year one goes to secure the contract that they purchased, why not the reverse?" Roxas said at a Senate hearing yesterday on a number of bills proposing to establish a Pre-Need Code to regulate the industry.

"Put your money where your mouths are. Have enough capital to pay your agents and your operating expenses because the money you collect from the people will go to secure the promise that you made," Roxas said, addressing the pre-need industry.

He noted that under the present setup, the bulk of the investments of the plan holders in the first two years of a pre-need plan went toward the companies' operational and other expenses instead of being deposited in the trust fund.

A trust fund is an asset account which pre-need companies are required to maintain to ensure the delivery of the guaranteed benefits and services when a pre-need plan contract matures. It is managed by a trustee bank which is supposed to operate independently of the pre-need company management.

Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Fe Barin said she "fully agreed" with Roxas but stressed that a law laying down the basis for amending the SEC rules on deposit schedules would have to be passed first.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Senate calls on Pineda to testify

From page A1

Luga, who allegedly allowed jueteng operations in the Cordilleras, will also be called.

But Villar said he and inquiry co-chair Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid still had to discuss the final list of those to be summoned.

Villar wanted the next hearing held on Friday. Lapid preferred Monday.

Known to be a recluse, Pineda seems to be a man of many reputations.

For one, he is said to be a "*kumpare*" of President Arroyo. Lapid denied the alleged jueteng lord was a close friend, describing Pineda as a mere acquaintance.

How real or extensive are Pineda's supposed links to the illegal numbers game that is now haunting the Arroyo administration?

Public focus is again on the 55-year-old Pineda because among alleged jueteng financiers, he was the only one who supposedly had exerted influence in national and local politics.

Ties with Palace?

One allegation is that he had bankrolled election campaigns and mobilized jueteng workers to ensure the victory of his chosen candidates.

His supposed ties with Malacañang or people close to the Palace have added spice to his image.

If the police list of jueteng operators is to be believed, Pineda has, indeed, returned to financing jueteng operations after years of absence and is now in control of several gambling areas in Luzon.

In Bataan, according to the police dossier, his alleged places of operation are in Barangay San Benito in Dinalupihan, Balon Anito in Mariveles and Bagumbayan in Balanga.

In Bulacan, the areas are supposed to be the towns of Guiguinto, Plaridel, Calumpit, Paombong, Sta. Maria, Angat, San Miguel, Bulacan, Balagtas, Norzagaray and Pulilan, and the cities of Malolos and San Jose del Monte.

The web

The man also allegedly operates in the third and fourth districts of Nueva Ecija.

In Pampanga, Pineda is claimed to have control of Arayat, Sta. Ana, Mexico, Bacolor, Sta. Rita, Porac, Floridablanca, Guagua, Lubao and Sasmuan towns and the City of San Fernando.

The list was based not just on data obtained from arrested jueteng collectors, who claimed Pineda was their operator, but also from gambling paraphernalia stamped with "Bong P." signs and information from village-level operatives, police said.

The "verified list" formed part of a report that Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Central Luzon police director, had submitted to national headquarters.

The patron

INQUIRER sources from among residents of Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija said they had "heard" Pineda was the operator in their areas.

Police raised two possibilities from the information they had gathered:

Either that Pineda's current operations have not matched the extent of his operations before the 2000 so-called "Juetengate" scandal which led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, his supposed patron, or that his control of the game is still extensive but, this time, indirect through franchises, which would explain why there were still many small operators coexisting with him.

One such operator, Regalado "Otto" Balboa, was quoted by a source as saying that he paid Pineda P1 million monthly.

Police say Balboa runs the game in Apalit, San Simon and San Luis towns in Pampanga.

Bong's businesses

A whistle-blower who sought the help of Sen. Panfilo Lacson pictured Pineda as a "big gambling lord."

Citing information in a supposed ledger, the source said Pineda's operations had spread to Pangasinan, Isabela, Batangas, Rizal, Metro Manila, Mindoro and Albay.

Pineda's only son, Mayor Dennis Pineda of Lubao, dismissed the allegations, saying his father has stayed out of the racket.

"He's busy with his businesses," the mayor told the INQUIRER last month. Pineda's businesses include construction, fast-food franchises, farming and housing, it was learned.

Staying out of trouble

Another close relative said Pineda preferred a quiet life now. This after he hurdled a congressional inquiry in 1996, two court cases in 1998, where he was cleared of charges involving corruption of public officials, and the Juetengate nightmare.

"He does not want trouble anymore," said the relative.

The relative said Pineda had also deferred to the fact that Ms Arroyo hailed from Pampanga, and he did not want to embarrass her.

Asked about reports persistently linking Pineda to jueteng, the relative said Pineda's name could have been used by some officials to shield themselves from the Senate probe.

Jueteng and elections

A police senior superintendent and at least two local officials said Pineda reasserted his role in jueteng during the May 2004 elections.

They claimed Pineda funded the campaigns of some national and local candidates and mobilized his network of jueteng employees to campaign for them and protect their votes.

Another Pineda

In earlier interviews, Senator Lapid, his son, Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, and Representative Arroyo said it was Mayor Pineda, the president of the Pampanga Mayors' League—not Bong—who helped them in their candidacies.

Mayor Pineda, they said, contributed money and lent them vehicles for their campaigns.

In Pampanga's 20 towns and two cities, Pineda's supposed tradeoff with local officials was for them to allow jueteng to go on unhampered in exchange for campaign funds.

Except in San Fernando, where suspected jueteng operator Melcher "Ngongo" Caluag supposedly runs the show, Pineda was said to have approved "franchises" in other areas.

In Angeles City, a police official said Pineda had favored erstwhile rival Mario "Marga" Garcia over a certain Panchito, who is known to front for a local official.

From monte to jueteng

An INQUIRER story in 2000 indicated how early the gambling cloud had drifted over Pineda's life.

At 19, Pineda allegedly operated the Spanish card game monte. Having a patriarch of a famous Central Luzon clan for a new patron, he expanded the monte games to San Juan and Quezon City in Metro Manila, Rizal and Nueva Ecija.

A top official of the defunct Philippine Constabulary and a Philippine Military Academy graduate purportedly protected his operations.

Pineda reportedly ventured into jueteng in 1986. His patron eventually became a Pampanga police director, it was said.

One of Pineda's closest friends, also a former Pampanga official, said Pineda's mentor and financier was a certain Antonio Santos of Marikina.

Aided by a politician and his own police connections, he expanded his turf to Pangasinan and Bicol and, at one time, to as far as Iloilo.

It was during the Aquino administration that Pineda cultivated connections with top officials, an INQUIRER special report in 2000 said.

Nemesis, buddies

The former Pampanga official said Pineda gave an "influential person" based in Tarlac P90 million in monthly payoffs to ensure that his jueteng operations would survive.

The ex-official claimed Pineda also resorted to payoffs during the Ramos administration. It was also during those years that Pineda first felt the heat. But he survived an exposé by an antigambling crusader and a congressional inquiry.

Two years later, the courts cleared him of two charges involving corruption of public officials.

Back in business, he bankrolled the election campaigns of then Vice President Arroyo and former President Joseph Estrada, according to sources.

Then as now, Senator Lacson has been Pineda's nemesis.

In 2000, Lacson, then PNP chief, accused the suspected gambling lord of handing out P100 million in payoffs to government, military and police officials and media.

The heat turned into a conflagration in October 2000 when Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson accused then President Estrada of taking more than P500 million in payoffs from operators, including Pineda. The allegation helped spark Estrada's downfall.

Before the scandal broke out, Pineda left for the United States. He came home in 2002 when his town mate, Ms Arroyo, was already in power.

On his return, Pineda focused on his legitimate businesses.

On the side, he was often seen playing golf at Clark's Mimosa Leisure Estate with Senator Lapid. They were said to be buddies on the fairways.

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Seize ...

From page A1

beneficiaries. Make them now shed their pounds and fat. They have been pampered too long. They have lorded it over the people with much glee and delight. They should be cut down to their rightful size—which is petty and insignificant," Cruz said in a statement.

Cobradores and cabos, the work force of the jueteng operations, are now complaining of having lost their livelihood. They earned a certain percentage from their collections but had no fixed income from the illegal numbers game.

In Pampanga, the government crackdown has dislocated thousands of jueteng workers, depriving them of daily incomes, forcing families to resort to crime and preventing children from attending school.

Cruz, who has been in the forefront of the campaign to eliminate jueteng, said the social costs of the illegal numbers game constitute a public spectacle.

"The *cobradores* show empty hands. The *cabos* complain of empty pockets. But the marvel of all marvels is that the jueteng lords still have all the money taken from the poor. The jueteng payola beneficiaries continue to have their pockets full of jueteng bets placed by the gullible," he said.

Payback time

The archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan said he hoped that payback time had come to the jueteng lords who recruited the *cobradores* and *cabos* to slave for them.

He also said the jueteng lords inculcated the mentality of chance and the spirit of indolence among the people.

"They exploited the poor and the gullible. They enriched themselves with gross greed. They bought protection and silence from chosen local officials and police authorities of power and influence," he said.

But the happy days appear to be over for the jueteng capitalists, financiers, operators as the country groans from the social costs brought about by jueteng, Cruz said.

"It is about time that the decades of social decay and the systematic corruption perpetrated by jueteng payolas be ended once and for all," he said.

Cruz said only the jueteng patrons and protectors still had the guile to claim that this illegal numbers game—just like *masiao* and other gambling forms—was "an innocent pastime, a harmless favorite." *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the Metro banner story on Page A22—"Arroceros Park an archeological site"—misstated the year the National Museum declared the Manila park an archeological heritage site. Arroceros Park earned the distinction in 2003—not 1993 when 16th- and 17th-century ceramic shards were first dug up in the area.

* * *

IN BAMBI L. Harper's column for May 3, 2005, "How to lose a war," an officer's name was incorrectly spelled as Lt. Col. Timoteo Marcella. The correct surname is Marella.

4 bagmen next to face probers

From page A1

clergy and other religious, according to an official supposedly trusted by Mayor.

"Those who have been scheduled to take the witness stand soon are already in Metro Manila. Those who have to wait awhile are still in the provinces. But all of them have been secured," said the official, who asked not to be named.

The source said the bagmen had been having "second thoughts" about testifying at the Senate inquiry but were "inspired" by Mayor's taking the witness stand.

Their testimony would involve persons in high places of influence in the government and in society in general, according to the source.

"Those who will be implicated will [be] higher [officials]," the source said, adding:

"The bagmen will be on hand. Somehow, they are closer to the people they give protection money to [compared to jueteng operators like Mayor who only dealt with the bagmen]."

As many as 8

Archbishop Cruz, who heads Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, had earlier claimed to have as many as eight witnesses prepared to testify in the Senate investigation.

Among them was Mayor, who testified at the Monday hearing that he usually allotted P600,000 from jueteng proceeds for the young Arroyo, and insinuated that Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao and retired Chief Supt. Victor Luga served as jueteng protectors when they were still regional directors.

Lomibao, however, said he could not recall seeing Mayor until that hearing.

But a list of alleged jueteng operators that Cruz submitted to a committee of the House of Representatives also mentioned Lomibao as the recipient of P19.6 million in jueteng payola from 16 known gambling lords in 24 provinces.

Cruz yesterday said that while Mayor was not scheduled to testify on Monday, he decided to bring the latter along to personally deliver his account before the senators.

Monthly share

Mayor, who claimed to have operated jueteng games in Albay, Pangasinan and Benguet, and in Baguio City in 1995-98 and 2001-03, said his piece after the Senate guaranteed protection for himself and his family.

CRUZ

He alleged that a PNP regional and provincial director, Intelligence Group operatives based in Camp Crame, as well as local and Manila-based media men had received a monthly share from jueteng operations.

He tagged agents from the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and a certain Boy Tangkad based in Camp Crame as jueteng protectors.

Mayor also said he had allocated monthly payola for Albay Rep. Carlos Imperial (P300,000) through one SPO1 Charlie Yasos; Rep. Jose Ma. "Joey" Salceda (400,000) through a certain Jojie, and ex-Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro (P250,000) through a certain Caloy.

Salceda immediately denied this, as did Luistro's father, Rep. Edcel Lagman.

No such cop

Director Nicolas Pasinos, chief of the PNP's personnel and records unit, said there was no record of a Charlie Yasos on the police force.

Pasinos said that if Yasos were really a policeman, his record would surely show up in a simple search.

But after running a computer search, PO3 Nancy Villarosa of the PNP Directorate for Personnel and Records Management came up with nothing on Yasos.

Villarosa tried several queries on the computer, varying the spelling of "Yasos" to find a match.

She tried "Jasos," "Iasos," "Yiasos" and "Yazos," to no avail.

There were at least three names that sounded similar to Yasos, but two of them were women and the man had retired from the force.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

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BI holds murder suspect

AN AMERICAN accused of killing his father in Davao City last month has been detained by the Bureau of Immigration after it was found that he was an undocumented alien.

BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said the filing of immigration charges against Frederick Sixma Jr. would place him in the bureau's custody and prevent his flight to evade the more serious murder charge.

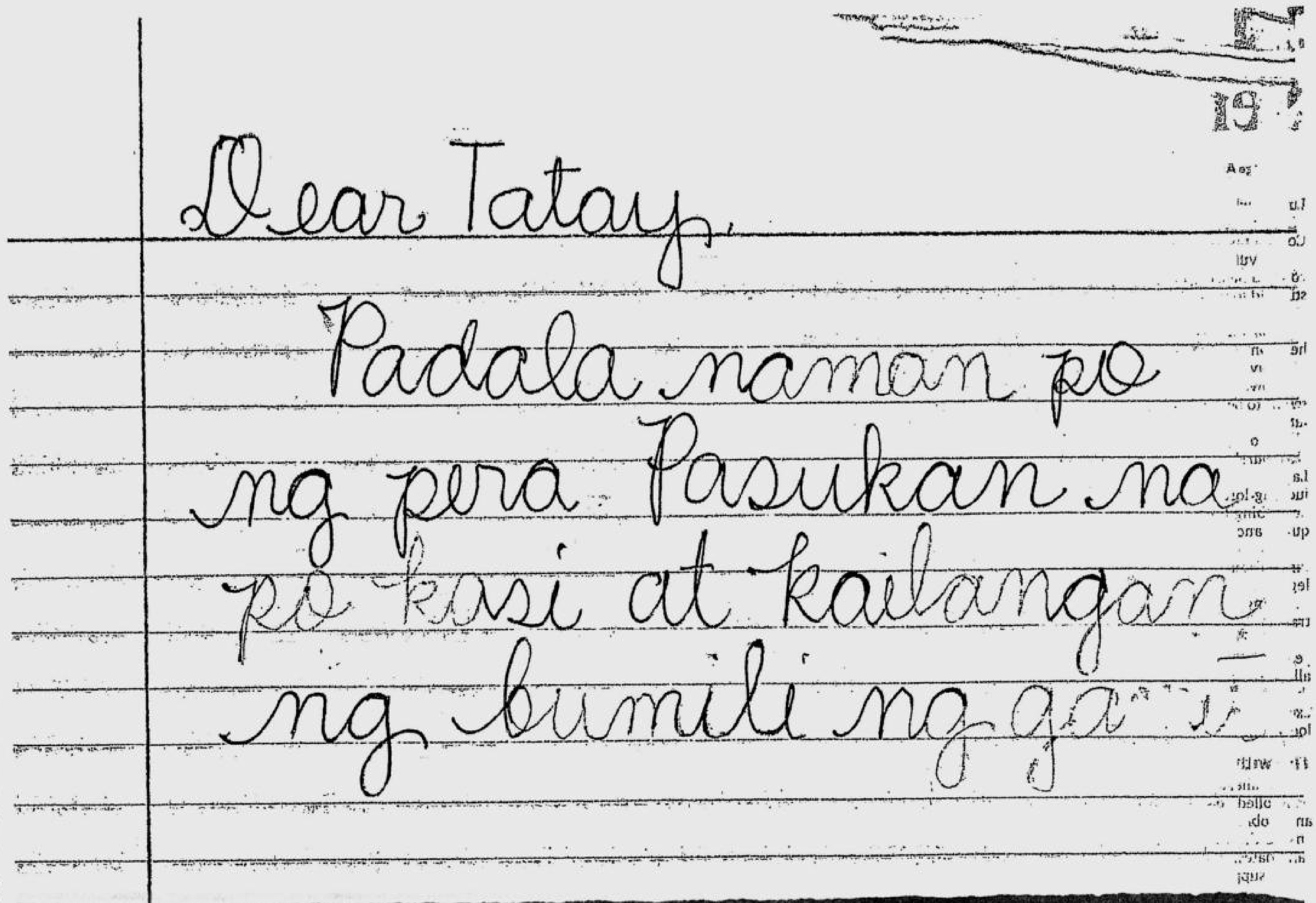
The American allegedly killed his father, Frederick Sixma Sr. The elder Sixma's body was found stuffed in a garbage bag that had been left along a diversion road in Davao City on April 21.

Police said witnesses last saw the victim alive with his son when the two of them left for a trip to General Santos City on April 12.

The son was turned over to the BI after his arrest on April 29.

BI prosecutor Zaniah Siton said the bureau had no record of the younger Sixma's arrival in the country or of any pending visa application. The suspect also failed to present his passport to the BI.

Only the elder Sixma's arrival in the country and the approval of his working visa were in the BI's records. *Leila B. Salaverria*



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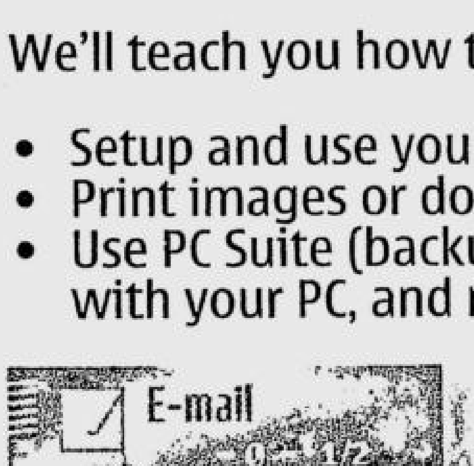

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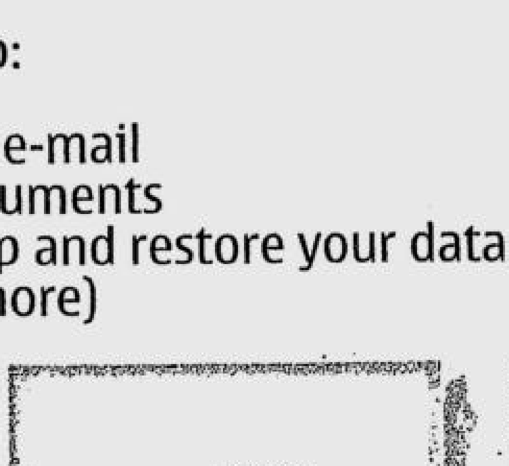

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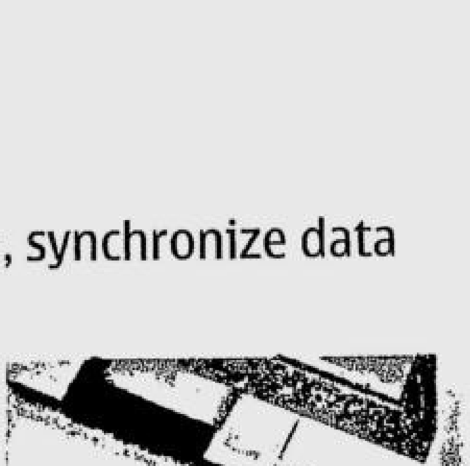

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Schools find creative ways to hike profits

By Alcuin Papa

SCHOOL owners and administrators have apparently found a way to get students to cough up more money without actually raising tuition, by levying energy fees, guidance and counseling fees and aircon fees, among other ingenious methods of extracting profit.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) said this was how school managements were trying to get around a recent Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) memorandum capping tuition at the inflation rate of 8.5 percent.

While schools are proclaiming and advertising zero or minimal tuition increases during this school year to attract more enrollees, they are in reality bloating the miscellaneous fees, said NUSP national president Rizza Ramirez.

"Unlike tuition, miscellaneous fee hikes have remained unchecked for the last few years. This explains why school owners are able to avoid tuition hikes but still manage to rake in bigger profits annually," Ramirez said.

Quoting from a 2004 CHEd report, Ramirez said miscellaneous fees had gone up by 140 percent in colleges around the country.

She said these schools were collecting various fees for expenses that were supposed to be part of the school's capital outlay and were already included in the basic tuition.

"These fees are not only questionable, they are superfluous. School owners are becoming more creative in inventing new fees to justify their lust for profit," she said.

Ramirez quoted former CHEd executive director Roger Perez as saying last year that most tertiary schools were charging various fees that he described as "downright ridiculous," citing as examples unexplained fees for energy, guidance and counseling, aircon, social action, building and development.

Some of the most absurd fees being collected are the postal fee, insurance fee, Smart fee and copier fee at AMA Computer University; power charge fee at Trinity College; power plant development fee at Miriam College; land infrastructure maintenance and acquisition development fee at Baguio Colleges Foundation; accreditation fee at Technological Institute of the Philippines, and pre-registration fee at Aquinas University in Albay.

Ramirez said the CHEd should abolish these exorbitant fees rather than continue to regulate them.

Under the new memo, Ramirez said, school owners can legally increase miscellaneous fees for every item without any restraint as long as it was less than or equivalent to the inflation rate.

She said the CHEd reported last year that eight schools in 10 regions charged an average of P349.04 as energy fee. The University of Sto. Tomas, which charges P800 as energy fee, makes P24 million every semester from its 30,000 student population, Ramirez said.

Some 37 private colleges and universities impose an average P49.70 as "insurance fee." Eight reportedly charge an average P331.28 as internet fee.

The CHEd also reported that 34 schools collected an average of P318.91 as "development fee" in 2004. St. Scholastica's College charged P600 in development fee.

Rethink use of English – Abad

EDUCATION Secretary Florencio Abad yesterday expressed doubt about a move by House legislators to make English the principal medium of instruction at all levels in public schools all over the country.

He said the proposal should be studied further as it might become a case of "barking up the wrong tree."

Using English to teach all subjects in the elementary level may not be the best way for Filipinos to learn English or learn anything for that matter, he said.

It is not enough to teach students to speak and write English but they should understand what is being taught to them in English, Abad said.

He said there were a number of factors that would affect the capability of students to learn using the English language.

One of these factors would be their home environment, that is, whether or not English is spoken by their families and friends. This would make the learning of English more conducive for students, Abad said.

The shift to English instruction would also need teachers who are equipped with English skills, Abad said. Unfortunately, teachers themselves have difficulty speaking fluent English, he said.

"The correct use of the language will not register in the mind of the student if there are these factors in and outside the school," explained Abad.

It would be better for students to first "learn at an early age how to read and to understand what they are reading," he said.

The secretary said the education department would prefer instead an enhanced reading program for all elementary school students to equip them with better reading skills.

"How can the student be proficient in English when the majority of them can't even read?" said Abad.

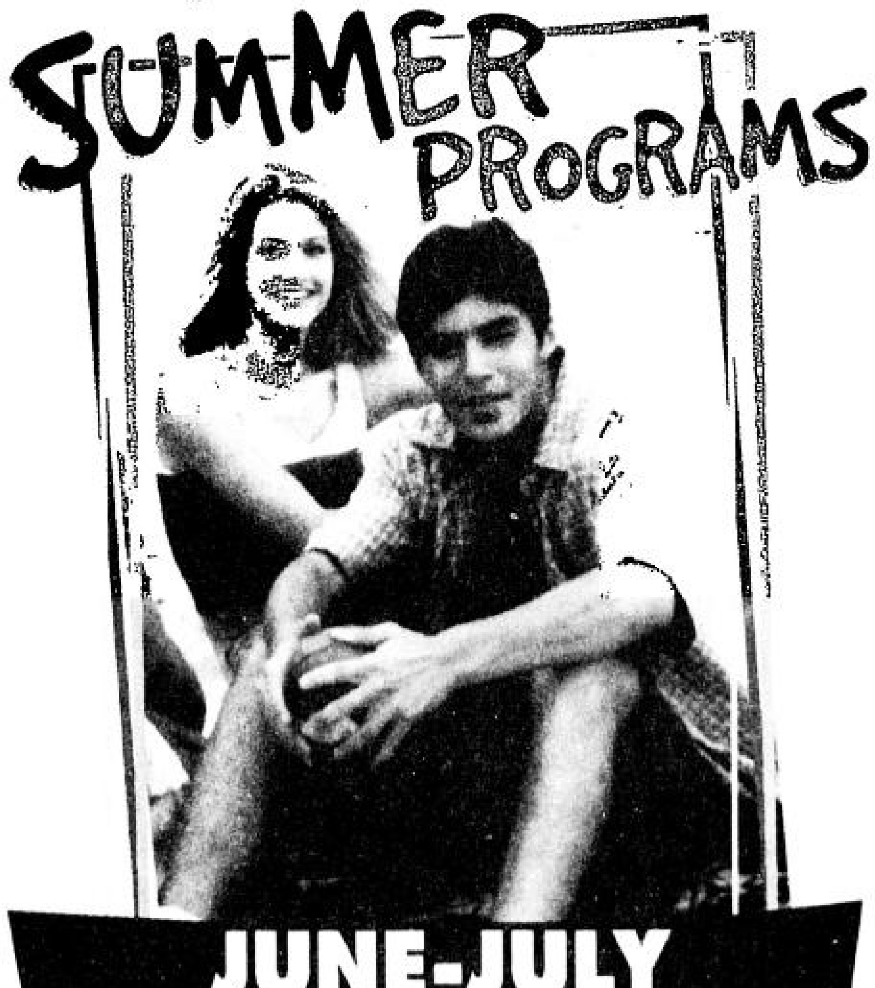
He noted that in the High School Readiness Test given to incoming high school freshmen last year, many failed not only English but Filipino as well.

Most of the students failed because they could not understand the instructions in the test which were given in English.

Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas last week filed a bill in the House, endorsed by majority of the representatives, to change the present bilingual policy and require that English be the principal medium of instruction at all levels.

Alcuin Papa

John Robert Powers



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Workers unhappy with P25 wage hike

By Jerome Aning

AS EXPECTED, workers were unhappy with the recent wage increases approved by the regional wage boards.

Labor groups from the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines to the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and the Alliance of Progressive Labor took turns in denouncing the wage hikes as "inadequate" and "unjust," as the National Wages and Productivity Commission announced pay adjustments in other regions.

The TUCP said yesterday it would appeal the decision of the wage boards granting a P25 and P15 increase in basic pay in the National Capital Region and Central Visayas, respectively.

"It does not restore the lost purchasing power of workers nor it is enough to cover the increases in the prices of goods and commodities," said Alex Aguilar, TUCP spokesperson. The TUCP had earlier sought wage increases of P78 in Metro Manila and P150 in Metro Cebu.

Malacañang yesterday said the P25 daily wage increase in the NCR was the "best compromise" for workers and employers.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the decision of the NCR wage board was fully studied by labor, management and government representatives who took into consideration the prevailing situation.

"And this is an effort to come up with a middle ground to address the needs of workers and the needs also of the entrepreneurs to make both ends meet," Bunye told reporters. "We believe this is a win-win situation."

"(We) hope all parties concerned would appreciate the efforts the members of the wage boards put in this process and, as I said, we will continue to look for solutions," he said.

The NWPC, meanwhile, said yesterday Western Visayas workers would receive an additional P15 in their basic pay to be given in mid-June (P10) and in April next year (P5). Workers in Northern Mindanao, however, will get a raise of P16 in their cost of living allowance, and those in the Socsargen region will receive P6 to P13.50 in additional COLA.

The APL said workers "deserve a living wage, not crumbs" from the RTWPBs, while the BMP called the figures "mere pittances which regard workers as beggars."

KMU said P25 wage increase in the NCR was "very little compared to the profits earned by business owners," the very reason, added its affiliate Anakpawis, workers should push for the P125 legislated wage increase pending in Congress.

According to Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Rene Magtubo, the P25 wage hike in the NCR was lower than the lost value of wages due to inflation.

He claimed that the purchasing power of the peso in March 2005 compared to the year 2000 was only 79 centavos. This means the real value of the P300 minimum wage was only P237.

Despite upward adjustments in basic pay and COLA, some workers are unlikely to get wage hikes as companies, particularly small- and medium-sized establishments, are poised to apply for exemptions.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines chair Miguel Varela and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries chair Donald Dee said their groups would not appeal the wage hike but would advice their members who cannot afford it to file for an exemption with the wage boards.

"For now, that is the best we can give," Dee told reporters. "Companies in the service sector may choose to give more when they negotiate (through collective bargaining agreements), but higher than P25 we can no longer afford," Dee told reporters. *With Christine O. Avendaño*

Labor body OIC named

MALACAÑANG has designated Commissioner Raul T. Aquino as officer-in-charge of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) following the resignation of its chief, Roy Señeres, last week.

In a letter dated May 27, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Aquino, presiding commissioner of the NLRC's Second Division, had been recommended to be OIC by Señeres. Aquino took over the NLRC yesterday.

Señeres' resignation takes effect on June 30 after his terminal leave, which started yesterday.

The controversial NLRC chief said he resigned because he was unhappy with the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President had accused him of plotting to destabilize her government, a charge Señeres denied. *Christine O. Avendaño*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 1, 2005
9th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Tb 3:1-11,16-17
Gospel: Mark 12:18-27

The Sadducees came to Jesus. Since they claim that there is no resurrection, they questioned him in this way, "Master, in the Scriptures Moses gave us this law: 'If anyone dies and leaves a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife and give her a child who will be considered the child of his deceased brother.' Now, there were seven brothers. The first married a wife, but he died without leaving any children. The second took the wife and he, too, died leaving no children. The same thing happened to the third. Finally the seven died leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. Now, in the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife? For the seven had her as wife."

Jesus replied, "You could be wrong in this regard because you understand neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. When they rise from the dead, men and women do not marry but are like the angels in heaven.

"Now, about the resurrection of the dead, have you never reflected on the chapter of the burning bush in the book of Moses? God said to him: I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now, he is the God, not of the dead but of the living. You are totally wrong."

Commentary

AGAIN Jesus is interrogated, this time by the Sadducees who don't believe in resurrection from the dead (the Pharisees did). They insult Jesus with a ridiculous proposition of a woman who dies after being married seven times-which one will be her husband in heaven? Jesus is clear that they are wrong because they know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God and that heaven is not like here. Relationships in the kingdom are not based on marriage or blood ties, but on obedience to the God of life, the God of history and the God of those living. He's not so subtlely telling them that they are dead already! Are we wrong about a lot of things because we do not know either the Scriptures or the power of God? How stupid and misguided are we in our questions, doubts and theological issues? Do we believe in the God of life and do our lives reflect that to others?

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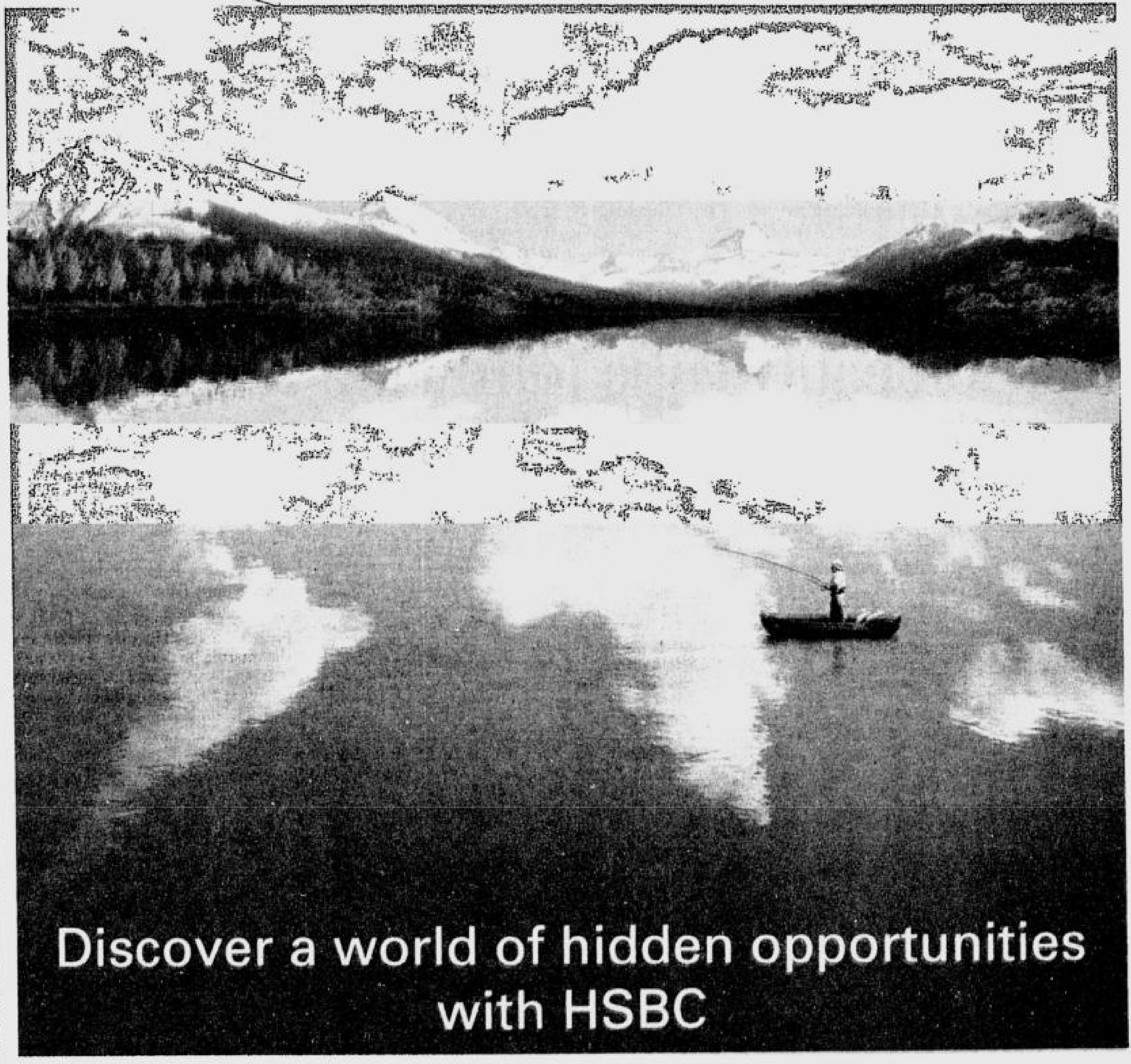
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (TORTS AND DAMAGES)—Juridical person not entitled to moral damages—A juridical person is generally not entitled to moral damages because, unlike a natural person, it cannot experience physical suffering or such sentiments as wounded feelings, serious anxiety, mental anguish or moral shock. Item 7 of Article 2219 of the Civil Code expressly authorizes the recovery of moral damages in cases of libel, slander or any other form of defamation. Article 2219(7) does not qualify whether the plaintiff is a natural or juridical person. Therefore, a juridical person such as a corporation can validly complain for libel or any other form of defamation and claim for moral damages. Moreover, where the broadcast is libelous per se, the law implies damages. In such a case, evidence of an honest mistake or the want of character or reputation of the party libeled goes only in mitigation of damages. Neither in such a case is the plaintiff required to introduce evidence of actual damages as a condition precedent to the recovery of some damages. In this case, the broadcasts are libelous per se. Thus, AMEC is entitled to moral damages. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Caprio, First Division, Filipinas Broadcasting Network, Inc. v. Ago Medical and Educational Center-Bicol Christian College of Medicine, G. R. No. 141994, January 17, 2005) By R.B. Vera



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Zarqawi admits being 'lightly' wounded in website message

DUBAI—Al-Qaida's leader in Iraq Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said he was "lightly" wounded but still battling alongside his fighters in Iraq, in a voice message attributed to him posted on the Internet.

"After the information according to which I was seriously wounded... I want to reassure you that all this is pure rumor and totally unfounded... but there are light wounds," said the voice attributed to Zarqawi.

It was not possible to verify the authenticity of the statement, posted on the website on Monday following a series of sometimes conflicting messages about the health of the Jordanian-born extremist and his role in the insurgency.

Zarqawi, Iraq's most wanted man, said in the message that he was still in Iraq and would take part in the struggle against the "Crusaders" and the enemies of Islam, according to the recording, which was dated May 27.

"I am currently with my brothers and my people in the land of Mesopotamia, where I am participating in combats against the Crusaders and the enemies of religion," the voice said.

The author of the message said that the resistance plan was in operation "as planned" adding that fugitive al-Qaida head Osama bin Laden had been informed.

"If the plan is successfully carried out, its consequences will make all Muslims happy and will upset the infidels," he continued.

He also berated Iraq Shiites, particularly their Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, for supporting the US-led forces, saying that without that support "the situation of the Americans would be different."

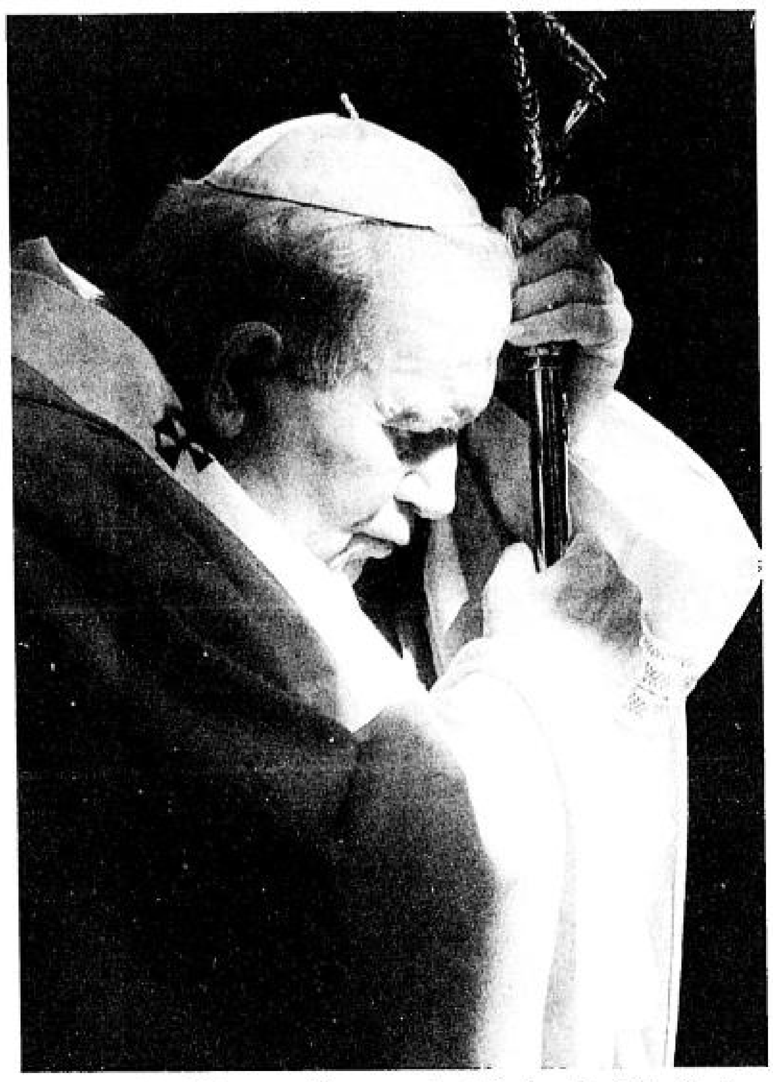
A statement last week on an Islamist website said that Iraq's most wanted man was wounded and command had passed to a deputy, while another message Friday said he was in good health and directing insurgent operations.

Another statement on Saturday said Zarqawi was overseeing a response to a security push launched by Iraqi forces against rebels in Baghdad that resulted in a string of bombings at the weekend.

The new message also comes after The Sunday Times newspaper in London reported that Zarqawi was moved to Iran after a US air strike left him with shrapnel lodged in his chest, a charge fiercely denied by Tehran.

Gen. Richard Myers, the outgoing chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Sunday that the United States "tends to believe" the claims that Zarqawi has been wounded.

The one-legged extremist was hunted in vain by US-led forces in the massive "Operation Matador" earlier this month near the Iraqi-Syrian border. *AFP*



POPE John Paul II leans on his pastoral staff during his visit to the San Mattia parish church in the outskirts of Rome in this March 14, 1999 photo. The process to beatify Pope John Paul II—the first step toward possible sainthood—has officially begun May 30. AP

4 Americans, 4 Italians killed in Iraq crashes

BAGHDAD—Four American and four Italian military personnel were killed in separate aircraft crashes, military officials said Tuesday, as Iraq's prime minister condemned the arrest of a top Sunni political leader by US troops.

Monday's 12-hour detention of Iraqi Islamic Party leader Mohsen Abdul-Hamid did little to help American efforts to entice Iraq's once-dominant Sunni community back into the political fold. Many Sunnis feel slighted by the rise to power of the country's Shiite majority, which claimed political control following Saddam Hussein's ouster two years ago.

Iraq's raging insurgency, which has killed more than 760 people since the new Shiite-led government was announced April 28, is believed to be strongly backed by radical Sunni extremists.

Violence continued Tuesday with gunmen shooting dead Jerges Mohammed Sultan, an Iraqi journalist working for Iraqi state TV channel Al-Iraqiya, as he left his house in the northern city of Mosul, said Dr. Baha-aldin al-Bakri from al-Jumhouri hospital.

Insurgents have in the past targeted both the station, which has been mortared, and its journalists. One of its anchorwomen, Raiedah Mohammed Wageh Wazan, was kidnapped and killed in late February.

A suicide car bomber killed two Iraqi soldiers in an early morning attack on an army checkpoint near Buhriz, about 60 km north of Baghdad, said Diyala provincial police spokesperson Ali Fadhil.

On Monday, at least 27 policemen were killed and 118 wounded after two terrorists carrying explosives blew themselves up among a crowd of 500 commandos protesting a government move to disband their special forces unit in Hillah, about 95 km south of Baghdad. *AP*

Process to beatify Pope John Paul II starts

VATICAN CITY—The process to beatify Pope John Paul II—the first step toward possible sainthood—has officially begun with an edict inviting testimony from witnesses about his virtues and asking anyone with his manuscripts or other documents to give them to the Vatican.

The edict was published over the weekend, two weeks after Pope Benedict XVI announced he was lifting a five-year waiting period for the start of the process toward beatification, the last formal step before the late pontiff could be made a saint.

The Pope's vicar for Rome, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, signed the edict and said it came in response to what he called "sensational" calls for John Paul to be declared a saint after his death April 2.

Ruini said the edict, which officially launches the exhaustive investigation needed for a beatification cause, would be displayed on the doors of the headquarters of the diocese of Rome and Krakow, Poland, for two months.

It will take years for the Vatican to gather all of the writings of Polish-born John Paul and hear from witnesses testifying about his virtues. It must then certify a miracle attributed to his intercession after his death for him to be beatified. A second miracle is needed for him to be made a saint following beatification.

In the edict, Ruini said he was inviting the general public to contact the diocesan tribunal of the Vicariate of Rome to offer anything —"favorable or contrary to the saintly fame of the servant of God."

It also asked anyone with any of his writings to submit them to the tribunal—the originals or authenticated copies.

"Let us remember that by writings we don't just mean published works, which have already been gathered, but also manuscripts, diaries, letters and every other private writings of the servant of God," the edict said.

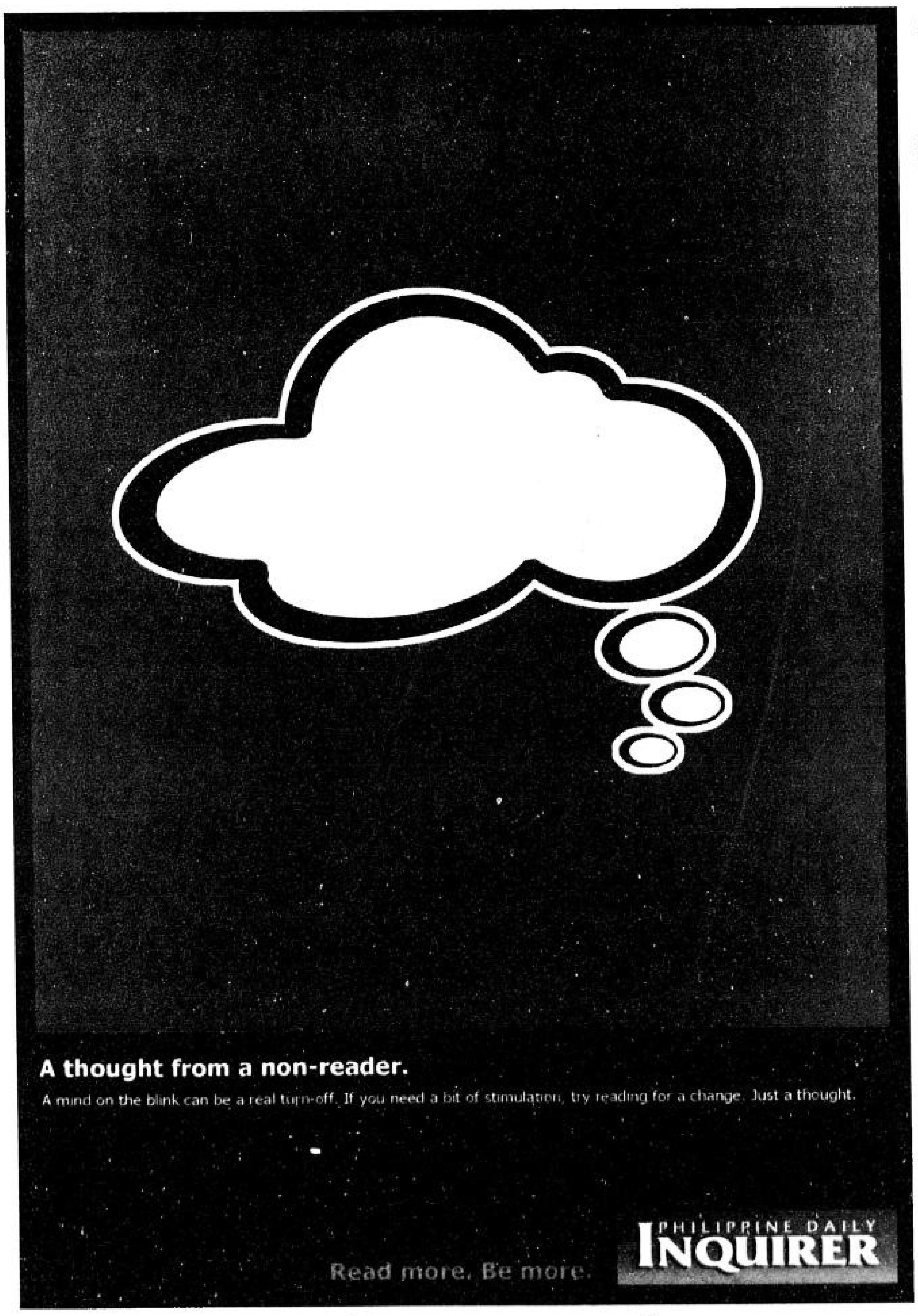
Some of John Paul's private papers, however, will be unavailable. In one of the few instructions left in his will, John Paul asked that his personal notes be burned.

The edict praised John Paul, who it said enjoyed "saintly fame" in life as in death. It called him a man with an "intense life of prayer," a tireless pastor and courageous witness to the Gospel.

The edict was issued May 18—what would have been John Paul's 85th birthday—and was published over the weekend in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, as well as in Rome's diocesan magazine and the "Avvenire" daily of the Italian bishop's conference.

Pope Benedict XVI announced May 13 that he had decided to put John Paul on an unprecedented fast track for possible sainthood. While Mother Teresa was put on a similar fast-track, her cause didn't begin until a year after her death, whereas the process began six weeks after John Paul died.

During John Paul's April 8 funeral, mourners interrupted the Mass by chanting "Santo! Santo!" and carried banners exclaiming "Santo Subito!" or "Sainthood Immediately!" *AP*



A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

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Guantanamo detainees tell of abuse, forced confessions

LONDON—One Guantanamo prisoner told a military panel that American troops beat him so badly he wets his pants now. Another detainee claimed US troops stripped prisoners in Afghanistan and intimidated them with dogs so they would admit to militant activity.

Tales of alleged abuse and forced confessions are among some 1,000 pages of tribunal transcripts the US government released to The Associated Press under a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit—the second batch of documents the AP has received in 10 days.

The testimonies offer a glimpse into the secretive world of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where about 520 men from 40 countries remain held, accused of having links to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime or Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. Many have been held for three years.

Whether the stories are true may never be known. And it wasn't immediately clear how many abuse allegations had been logged from the tribunals or how many of them had been investigated. Dozens of complaints have surfaced from detention missions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo, but the government couldn't offer a breakdown Monday.

One detainee, whose name and nationality were blacked out like most others in the transcripts, said his medical problems from alleged abuse have not been taken seriously.

"Americans hit me and beat me up so badly I believe I'm sexually dysfunctional. I don't know if I'll be able to sleep with my wife or not," he said. "I can't control my urination, and sometimes I put toilet paper down there so I won't wet my pants."

"I point to where the pain is... I think they take it as a joke and they laugh."

The tribunal president promised to take up the man's medical complaint, but in five pages of questioning, never brought up the alleged abuse.

The panel members were charged with determining whether the men were enemy combatants—not with investigating abuse allegations, said a military spokesperson, Navy Capt. Beci Brenton. She said tribunal members are supposed to forward abuse allegations to the Joint Task Force running the detention mission, which then forwards them to US Southern Command in Miami. *AP*

Teen kills own family, friends in Ohio

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio—A teen about to graduate from high school shot to death his grandparents, mother and two friends, then wounded his younger sister before committing suicide, authorities said. The rampage perplexed school officials, who said he seemed to have been in good spirits.

Logan County Sheriff Michael Henry said Monday he did not know if authorities would ever find out why Scott Moody acted as he did, "but we're going to try."

The shootings at two neighboring farmhouses were discovered Sunday when the sole survivor, Moody's critically wounded teenage sister, called her stepsister, who made an anguished call to police. The deaths came hours after a family party to celebrate graduation.

Preliminary evidence showed that Moody went to the farmhouse next door sometime Sunday morning and killed his grandparents with a .22-caliber rifle, then returned home, where he shot the others, then himself.

Bernie Pachmayer, superintendent for the school district, said no one had seen any indication Moody was troubled. He was looking forward to graduation and was in great spirits, she said.

"In our minds, it couldn't possibly be Scott," Pachmayer said.

She said he was a clean-cut boy who wanted to farm and fit well into the area when he came to the district two years ago.

"He was a farmer at heart," she said. "He worked the land."

Henry identified the victims as Moody's grandparents Sharyl Shafer, 66, and Gary Shafer, 67; Moody's mother, Sheri Shafer, 37; and two friends, Megan Karus, 19, and Paige Harshbarger, 14. Karus and Harshbarger had slept over after the party.

The bodies of Moody's mother and the two friends were discovered in the other home along with the wounded survivor, Stacy Moody, and the body of Moody himself. Authorities said Karus was on the couch. The other victims were in upstairs bedrooms.

Stacy Moody, 15, was shot in the neck. She remained in critical condition Monday at Ohio State University Medical Center.

There was no sign of a struggle at either house, Henry said, adding that it appeared Karus, Harshbarger and Sheri Shafer were killed while they slept.

The houses are about 400 meters apart along a two-lane state route 1.6 km west of the city of 13,000 people, 70 km northwest of Columbus. Fields where corn and soybeans are grown surround the white-paneled, two-story homes. *AP*

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PROMO MECHANICS:

1. The promo is open to new and existing individual depositors, joint accounts sole proprietorship accounts who will meet the minimum increase in Average Daily Balance (ADB) for the qualified deposit products. The account must be active (with minimum ADB) at the time of draw. Here are the qualified deposit products: *Regular Current Account, Regular Passbook Savings, Statement/ATM Savings, ATM Payroll Account, Premium Savings and US Dollar Savings.*
2. The ADB is computed based on cleared balances (current balance less uncleared checks). There are 3 ADB components in the promo:
   a.) Promo ADB – the ADB maintained by the depositors at a given promo period. It is computed as follows:

$$\text{Promo ADB} = \frac{\text{sum of all cleared Balances for the Promo Period (day 1 up to day 90/92)}}{\text{Total no. of days for the Promo Period (90 or 92 days)}}$$

   b.) Beginning ADB – the ADB of the depositor before the promo started (as of May 31, 2005). This includes all the cleared balances from March 1 up to May 31, 2005.
   c.) Increase in ADB – the promo ADB less the Beginning ADB.
3. For the preliminary draws, every P1,000.00 (for qualified Peso deposit products) or US$20.00 (for US Dollar savings deposit) increase in ADB will entitle the depositor/s to one (1) raffle point provided their ADB does not fall below the Required Initial Deposit The system will generate the corresponding raffle entry numbers and it will be distributed to the branches for posting / viewing of the depositors. New sets of raffle entry numbers will be generated by the system every raffle draw.
4. Existing depositors of the qualified deposit products will earn a Loyalty Advantage Raffle Point/s based on their Beginning ADB. It will be computed as follows:

$$\text{Loyalty advantage Raffle Points} = \frac{\text{ADB from March 1 up to May 31, 2005}}{\text{P1,000.00 for peso Deposits or US\$20.00 for Dollar Savings}}$$

   The corresponding Loyalty Advantage Raffle Entry Numbers will be generated at the end of the first promo period and will be included in the first raffle draw.
5. For the Grand Raffle, the system will accumulate all the raffle points earned by the qualified depositors from the first up to the third promo period. The Loyalty Advantage Raffle point/s will be included provided that ADB from the first up to the third promo does not fall below the beginning ADB (May 31, 2005). The system will generate new set of raffle entry numbers and it will be distributed to the branches for posting/viewing of the depositors.
6. The following are disqualified to join the raffle promo:
   6.1 Employees of EXPORT & INDUSTRY BANK and its subsidiaries, the employees of MAVERICK ADVERTISING AGENCY, and their relatives up to second dergree of consaguinity or affinity.
   6.2 Partners and Corporate accounts; and,
   6.3 Accounts that are closed/terminated and dormant during the promo period.
7. The raffle draws will be held at the Exportbank Head office, Exportbank Plaza, Makati City under the supervision of a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) representative on raffle dates enumerated below.

Promo Period	Inclusive Dates	No. of Days	Raffle Date
1st Draw	June 1 - August 31, 2005	92	September 15, 2005
2nd Draw	September 1 - November 30, 2005	92	December 15, 2005
3rd Draw	December 1, 2005 - February 28, 2006	90	March 15, 2006
Grand Draw	June 1, 2005 - February 28, 2006	274	March 15, 2006

8. A depositor / deposit account can only win once in every raffle draw, the said account will be awarded with the price that has the greater value.
9. Exportbank will shoulder the 20% tax for prizes worth more than P10,000.00.
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail. The complete list of winners will be published in a leading newspaper.
11. The winning depositors must present their valid IDs (Passport, driver's license, company or school ID) together with the mailed notice to the Corporate Affairs Office.
12. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from the notification date will be forfeited in favor of the bank with prior approval from DTI.
13. In case of disputes, the decision of Exportbank, as concurred by the DTI shall be deemed final
14. The following are the prizes to be won:

Raffle Draw	Prize Category	Prizes
3 Preliminary Draws	1st Prize	PhP100,000.00
	2nd Prize(3)	PhP 50,000.00
	3rd Prize (3)	PhP 20,000.00
	Consolation Prize (10)	PhP 10,000.00
Grand Draw	1st Prize	PhP 1 million
	2nd Prize(3)	PhP100,000.00
	3rd Prize (3)	PhP 50,000.00
	Consolation Prize (10)	PhP 20,000.00

Note:
1. There will be 3 winners for the 2nd and 3rd Prize categories, one (1) from Luzon, one (1) from Metro Manila and one (1) from Vizmin
2. Of the ten (10) Consolation Prize winners, three (3) will be from Luzon, four (4) from Metro Manila and three (3) from Vizmin.

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Bush says US now more secure, honors war dead

ARLINGTON, Va.—Facing mounting casualties in Iraq, President George W. Bush honored American war dead on Monday and vowed to complete the costly US mission against Saddam Hussein in Iraq and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Speaking at Arlington National Cemetery amid public doubts about his stewardship of the war, Bush claimed the United States was more secure because of the offensives he tied to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

"The war on terror has brought great costs," Bush said after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, which contains the remains of unidentified US troops from conflicts going back to World War One. Shortly before he spoke, an Iraqi aircraft crashed northeast of Baghdad with four Air Force personnel on board.

"For those who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq, today is a day of last letters and fresh tears," he said.

"Because of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, two terror regimes are gone forever, freedom is on the march and America is more secure."

More than 1,600 Americans have been killed since Bush ousted Saddam in April 2003. Seventy US troops have been killed in May, making it the deadliest month for the US military since January when insurgents tried to derail the first post-Saddam elections in Iraq.

The United States has spent nearly $300 billion in Iraq and Afghanis-tan since Sept. 11.

"We must honor them by completing the mission for which they gave their lives, by defeating the terrorists, advancing the cause of liberty and building a safer world," Bush said.

The president was accompanied to the grass field of white headstones—the burial ground of more than 225,000 military heroes and veterans of every US war—by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. *Reuters*

KFC torched in Pakistan, six killed

KARACHI—Six people were burnt alive when a mob protesting a suicide bombing of a mosque torched an outlet of an American fast food chain in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi, police said Tuesday.

Police and firemen recovered the bodies of six Kentucky Fried Chicken employees after an angry mob set the restaurant on fire Monday following a suicide attack on a Shiite Muslim mosque here that left five people dead.

"Their bodies were found during the search of KFC," city police chief Tariq Jamil said.

Three attackers stormed the minority Shiite Madinat-ul-Ilm mosque in the middle-class Gulshan neighborhood during evening prayers late Monday.

One of the assailants died in a gunbattle with police while the other blew himself up and the third sustained a serious head injury in a fall, Jamil said.

Hospital officials said the man was unconscious but in stable condition.

Police believe his survival could be the key to the investigation into suicide bombings.

Two worshippers and one policeman also died in the attack, while 21 people, four of whom were in a critical condition, were hospitalized.

Angry protesters went on the rampage after the attack, setting fire to two gas stations and a number of vehicles in addition to the KFC outlet.

The attack on the mosque came just three days after 19 people, most of them Shiites, died in a suicide bomb blast at a Muslim shrine near the capital Islamabad.

Thousands of Shiite and majority Sunni Muslims have been killed in sectarian bloodshed in Pakistan in recent years, with attacks including bomb blasts, suicide bombings and targeted killings. Last year 160 people were killed. *AFP*

NOTICE

THE TAGAYTAY GRASSLAND COMPANY (Developer) and GREEN SQAURE PROPERTIES CORPORATION (Owner) by virtue of the Joint Venture Agreement has filed with this board a sworn registration for the sale of subdivision lots at CANYON WOODS RESIDENTIAL RESORT PHASE IV-A-1 located at Diokno Highway, Brgy. San Gregorio, Laurel, Batangas specifically described as Lot Nos. 43,44,45,46,49,50,51,52, Block 2, Psd-04-022140. The Project is under PD 957. The subdivision plan is already approved by the Land Management Sector (LMS) dated 8 June 2004.

All Papers relative thereto shall upon request and payment of processing fee is available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon.

Absent legal impediment, the above-cited project is deemed registered and a certificate in evidence thereof shall forthwith be issued after ten (10) days from last day of publication.

Quezon City, Metro Manila. 10 may 2005

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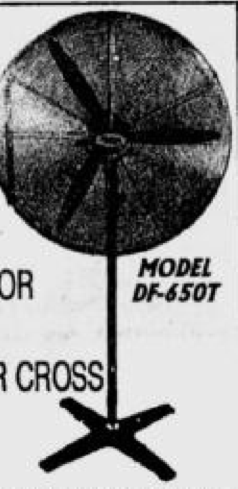
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Chirac names Villepin new prime minister

PARIS—French President Jacques Chirac named loyalist Dominique de Villepin as his new prime minister on Tuesday in a shake-up of the government following his crushing defeat over the European Union constitution.

Villepin replaces the unpopular Jean-Pierre Raffarin who quit earlier on Tuesday. He is a former interior and foreign minister who angered the United States but won French hearts with his fierce opposition to the US-led war in Iraq.

He now has the task of reshaping government policy after voters showed their distaste for Raffarin's economic policies and high unemployment in Sunday's vote on the EU charter.

Chirac and Villepin, 51, did not immediately unveil the new government, which is expected to be announced on Wednesday. Some political commentators predict a slimmed-down Cabinet.

The euro which was already falling, dropped even further on the announcement of Villepin's appointment.

Economists said Villepin was too close to Chirac and unlikely to reintroduce economic reforms.

"It's like re-arranging deck chairs on the Titanic. Chirac has a lame duck government now and the problems of rejuvenating the reform process are huge," said David Brown, chief European economist at investment bank Bear Stearns.

But National Assembly speaker Jean-Louis Debre, also a Chirac loyalist, hailed Villepin's arrival as "the best choice we could have made because it is a choice that unites us.

CHIRAC

"The president has heard our fellow citizens. There is a new government, there is a team I hope will be dynamic and will decree a state of emergency for jobs," he told reporters.

Villepin has little experience in the rough and tumble of domestic politics.

An aristocrat, sometime poet and career diplomat, he has never stood for election and has prickly relations with deputies from the governing Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) party he now relies on.

In 1997, Villepin was a prime mover behind Chirac's early dissolution of parliament, which saw a conservative majority blown away by a Socialist-led coalition.

The disaster earned him the nickname "Nero," a reference to the emperor who famously left Rome in flames.

Villepin won applause at the United Nations and plaudits at home on the right and the left for opposing the US-led war in Iraq, but angered Washington.

The two capitals have since been rebuilding ties but his appointment is likely to go down better with European allies. He speaks English, Spanish and Italian well.

In an address to the nation later on Tuesday Chirac was expected to make job creation the new government's priority—as it has been for previous governments for many years—with unemployment of 10.2 percent at a more than five-year high.

Deepening household pessimism over jobs is acting as a drag on already sluggish growth. New figures out on Tuesday showed households even more gloomy about their future living standards in May and unemployment remained stubbornly high.

Villepin detractors question if an unelected aristocrat can embody a more caring policy that voters demanded, focus groups showed, in rejecting the EU constitution. *Reuters*

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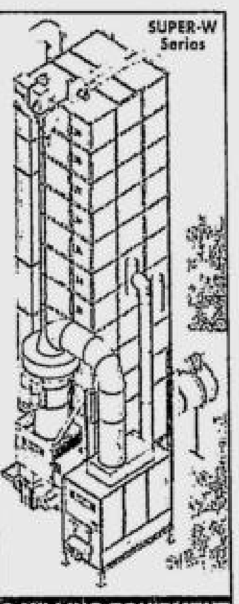

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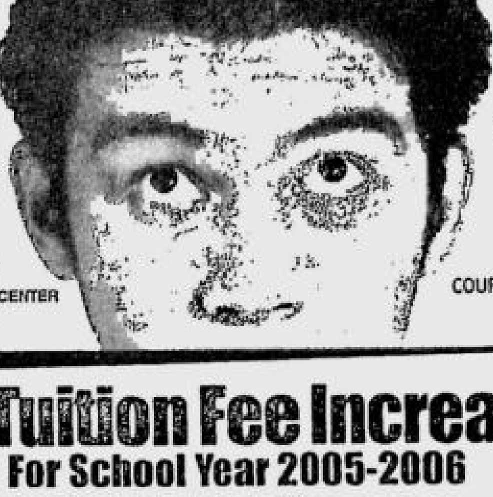

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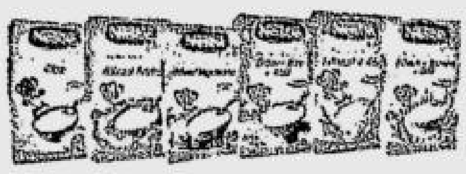

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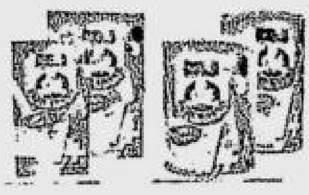

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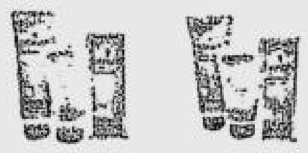

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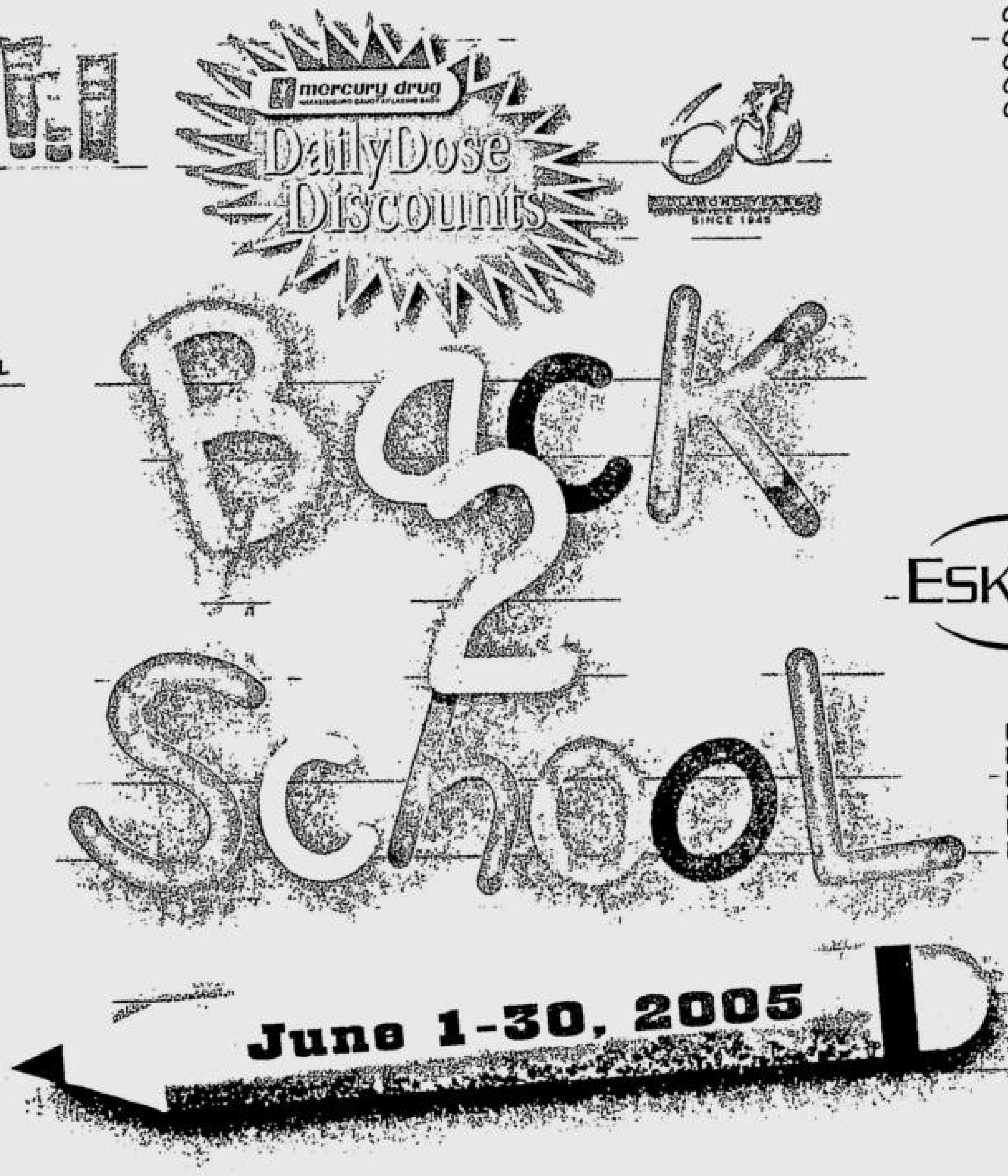

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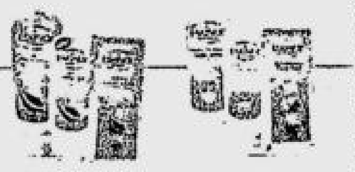

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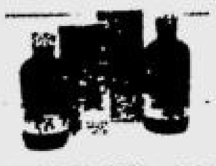

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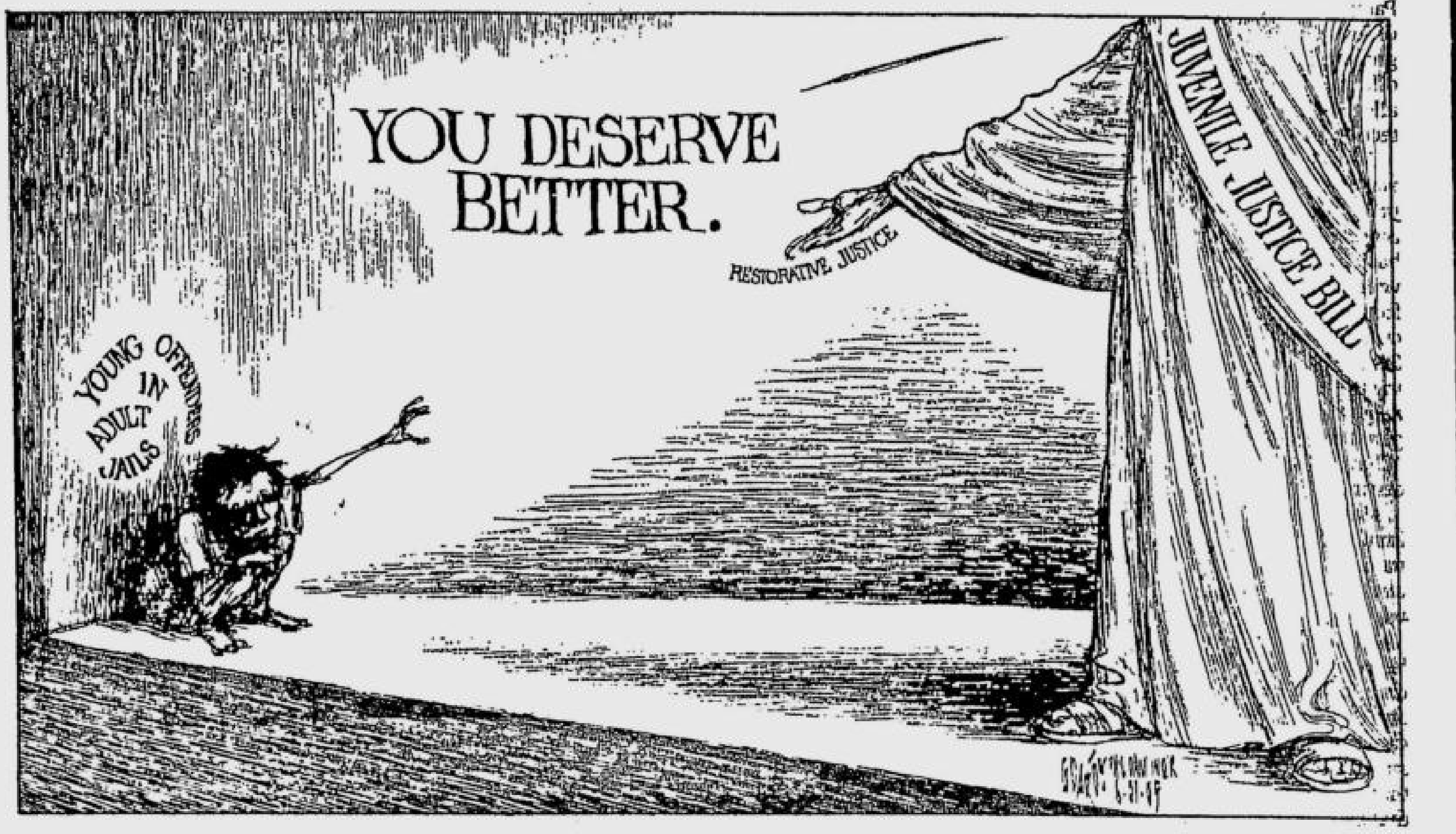


Doublespeak

EDITORIAL

WILFREDO Mayor, alias "Boy Bicol," has given riveting testimony before the Senate. One by one, he has enumerated a virtual who's who in Bicol politics, all at the receiving end of large, and regular, cuts from *jueteng* proceeds. The money trail leads to national figures, not least the President's own son, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, he said.

Mayor's testimony obviously took courage. Not the kind demonstrated by Clarissa Ocampo during then President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial, of course. His courage was the kind that crooks who have decided to rat on fellow crooks exhibit in order to avoid paying for their crimes. Mayor's testimony, in other words, required no moral courage.

But that doesn't mean his testimony amounts to nothing. Senators Lito Lapid and Miriam Defensor Santiago have put on a Heckle and Jeckle act, each echoing the other. As Santiago put it, Mayor "might be testifying not out of good faith, but simply out of peevishness that they had been elbowed out of their areas of jurisdiction." But to say that personal self-interest—in this case, Mayor cutting a deal in order to secure total immunity from prosecution for his crimes—might "taint" his testimony ignores the usefulness of such testimony. After all, a similar "peevishness" inspired Chavit Singson to blow the whistle on Estrada: he was irked, to say the least, over being deprived of his cut in the *jueteng* racket and then being the target of an alleged assassination attempt.

Still, there is a point to some senators insisting that at this point, Mayor's lurid revelations are "hearsay." Mayor has lined up a list of targets, but further investigations must be done, if the names are to be linked to actual, documented, or reliably witnessed and specific criminal acts. A parade of bagmen might do the trick, but each bagman is only a link in a chain that, so far, has been described but as yet is still not fully seen.

So far, though, the accusations made at the Senate have the ring of truth. Mayor's testimony has put many politicians on the defensive, including some whom the public rather enjoys to see squirming.

However, even Sen. Panfilo Lacson concedes that Mayor's testimony at this point wouldn't hold up in court. For example, Mayor says he knows Mikey Arroyo took *jueteng* money because a bagman told him so; but he has no direct knowledge of a specific act. Lacson candidly admits that "we are trying to build a case," and indeed, this is how cases are built. We must wonder, however, if the senators have cleared up in their minds, just how testimony in aid of prosecution can be part of an investigation in aid of legislation.

The problem actually hinges on who will do the prosecuting. With so many people from so many walks of life as potential targets, where would a serious effort at prosecution begin? With the President's husband, or son? With the top brass of the Philippine National Police? With so many of the country's mayors?

And who would do the prosecuting? The Department of Justice, which reports to a member of the President's Cabinet?

President Macapagal-Arroyo has reacted (with an unfortunate use of a gambling phrase), "Let the chips fall where they may." Indeed, the stakes are high for her family, if not her administration. She walks a fine line between satisfying the prayers of those who are willing to give her the benefit of the doubt and pray she would decide to feed her family to the wolves, and the often insubordinate but essential members of her administration and political party who won't take kindly to her allowing investigators and prosecutors to launch a witch hunt. She is caught in the unenviable political position where she cannot please anybody.

Such a situation is largely of her own making. Even as she claims confidence in the system, she utters warnings about the Senate investigation being part of an opposition destabilization plot. Which is it, then? A lot of noise over nothing she fears, or an abuse of the system for sinister political ends? Does the President know herself what to make of it? If she does, is she being forthright about her real feelings? And if she doesn't, then it is not surprising that her confusion is confusing everyone else.

'Jueteng' good for the health?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

JUETENG has some good points, one of which is that it is good for the health—at least of the *kubradors*. But I am not saying that it should be legalized, as some congressmen and other characters are advocating (which gives you an idea who are benefiting for this illegal numbers game).

But why is it good for the health? I am a witness to its health benefits. My grandfather on my mother's side lived to be almost a hundred years old. He was never sick a day in his life. Though he was stooped with age, bald and had some teeth missing, his memory was good and he had good eyesight throughout his life. Until the night he died peacefully in his sleep, he was sprightly and lively.

What was the secret of his longevity and good health? Well, he was a *jueteng kubrador,* a bet collector. Mornings and afternoons, he would walk around the neighborhood, collecting bets, delivering winnings, absorbing gossip like a sponge and spreading it like a sprinkler. He got plenty of exercise walking. He could have beaten today's 20-year-olds in stamina in a walkathon.

I was still a little boy when my grandfather went about his occupation. I would see him coming and going with the stub of a pencil behind an ear and rolls of paper tape on which he wrote the bets in his pockets. He had beautiful handwriting, especially of numbers, writing them with elaborate curves and flourishes.

Residents of the neighborhood waited for my lolo at all hours of the day. In fact, they waited for him anxiously and sometimes impatiently, for he was a messenger of good tidings: who won the day's draw and how much and if there was much *balato*.

He also brought hope. And hope was the only thing left to poor people who had lost everything. Even now, it is hope that carries them through the days and nights of grinding poverty. For while the day's winner is still not known, there is that hope that maybe one has finally hit the jackpot, which will make up for all the days that he did not.

Lolo was also an interpreter of dreams and other signs, especially what they meant in terms of numbers to bet on. A snake or an earthworm translated, of course, into a number 8, or a number 6 if it was coiled but with its head up ready to strike. Any straight upright thing was number 1, and any round thing was 0. Those were the simple things, but Lolo could interpret even the most complicated and convoluted dreams into numbers.

Most of the time, his interpretations didn't win, of course, but they were readily forgotten because of new dreams and signs. But when once in a while his prediction came true, he never let the whole village forget about it. And he extracted generous commissions from the day's winners.

But my grandfather brought not only winnings and advice but also news. In fact, people waited for him not only for possible winnings but for the latest gossip: who eloped with whom, who got pregnant by whom, who gave birth to another baby, who was caught by his wife in flagrante with his mistress, what so-and-so bought with his winnings, etc. He was a regular town crier. He would have made a successful newspaper reporter, particularly a movie scribe.

When he died, it was as if a community newspaper had closed shop and the people missed him. His successor could not duplicate the way he embellished his stories and delivered them in such colorful and humorous language.

But the people missed him most for his stories of hope. He always had stories of down-and-out people, without any future, without hope, suddenly winning the jackpot in *jueteng* and lived happily ever after. I do not know if they were true stories or mere inventions of his, but they were detailed stories, with names and addresses, etc. Of course, they lived in faraway places and his listeners had no way of checking their authenticity. But Lolo's listeners took his word for it because they wanted to believe. If those good things could happen to those lucky people, it could happen to them, too. Maybe next time this Tusitala came, they would be the lucky winners.

* * *

Now for the proposal of some "interested parties" to legalize *jueteng*. The argument is that *jueteng* has been with us for centuries and has already become part of our culture, so we cannot eradicate it, even if it has corrupted so many people. So the government might as well legalize it and collect taxes from it. In short, if you can't fight them, join them.

But I think *jueteng* should not be legalized because it would reward the *jueteng* lords and their protectors who have violated our laws for so long. The message that legalization would bring is that if you violated a law long enough, the government would be forced to legalize the crime. It would open the floodgates to the legalization of other crimes. You cannot eradicate prostitution? Legalize it. You cannot stamp out the drug culture? Legalize it. You cannot stop corruption? Legalize it.

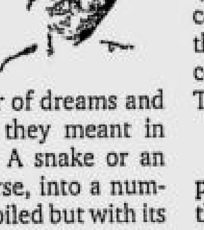
Besides, President Macapagal-Arroyo cannot afford to have *jueteng* legalized at this point in her term when her husband and son are accused of receiving *jueteng* payola. People will say: "*Kita nyo na, ni-*legalize *na. Kasi ang asawa at anak nya ay sangkot sa jueteng.*" GMA is in a no-win situation here.

In fact, GMA certified as urgent a few years ago a bill legalizing *jueteng*. She should withdraw it now or the people will not believe she is sincere in her anti-*jueteng* campaign.

How can a President fight *jueteng* when she has certified as urgent to Congress a bill legalizing it?

The 'jueteng' is over

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I SAW Mikey Arroyo on TV after Wilfredo Cimanis Mayor accused him of getting P600,000 a month in *jueteng* payoffs. He was furious. He had never seen Mayor at any time in his life, he said, and what the self-confessed ex-vice lord was saying was a tissue of lies. Clearly, he said, Mayor's testimony was a demolition job hatched by the opposition to discredit him and his family. It was politically motivated.

His mother, President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the same thing much earlier, before Mayor even had a chance to speak. In a speech in San Carlos City, hours before the Senate hearing, she slammed the opposition for mounting a smear job on her family. "Don't think that I'm somehow naïve or unrealistic. I'm fully aware of the challenges that remain and the lengths to which the opposition would go to undermine my ability to govern."

That is all very nice, except for one thing. That is that I did not see Rene Saguisag or Didagen Dilangalen in the Senate hearing bamboozling everyone with their enormous capacity for filling every crack of air space with their grating voices. I did not see Nene Pimentel or Panfilo Lacson springing the witness before an unsuspecting Senate; as senators, they merely sat on their seats and served as captive audience, and occasional interrogator. In fact, I did not see Susan Roces or Rez Cortez or anyone of those whose faces floated about in the flickering light in Sto. Domingo night after night during FPJ's wake marching outside the Senate carrying placards that said, *"Ibagsak si Gloria!"*

I saw instead Archbishop Oscar Cruz accompanying Mayor and leading him all the way to the hot chair. Mayor was his witness, just one of many in his custody. He had others, he said, and would soon produce them to tell what they knew of this sordid business. Now unless Cruz has become the pillar of the opposition, the embodiment of the opposition, the heart and soul of the opposition, I don't know what son and mother are talking about.

In fact, as it turned out, the opposition was just as stunned as the rest of the country by Mayor's revelations. Indeed, even if you grant that this whole business was concocted by the opposition, what of it? As demolition jobs go, the move to investigate Erap for *jueteng* payoffs, as a result of Chavit Singson's exposé, himself a self-confessed conduit, was far more clearly an opposition plot than this one. Singson had gone to Jaime Cardinal Sin for protection, and Sin was practically opposition. He had campaigned against Erap in the 1998 elections and had been a thorn on his side throughout his (brief) rule. The House, which moved to impeach Erap was populated by Lakas minions, who remained strong notwithstanding that their spiritual leader, Jose de Venecia, had been massacred by Erap in the same elections. The move to impeach Erap was politically motivated, but so what? It was also righteous.

Today, well, the opposition doesn't even have Juan Ponce Enrile anymore. Enrile himself may yet earn the dubious honor of being the one political butterfly that fluttered above the heads of Ferdinand Marcos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo before they were lopped off by the scythe of people power.

In any case, credibility for credibility, you put Mayor side by side with Mikey Arroyo and I don't know that you will find very many Filipinos who would buy the word of the latter against the former. What made Mayor seem especially believable was that he spoke only of things he knew. In the case of Arroyo, Mayor said he had never met him but he paid him off through his bagman. The P600,000 a month was *jueteng* payoff from only one place.

Hearsay? Maybe. But Mayor is only the first of Cruz's many witnesses. And unless they are stopped from telling their tale—or Lito Lapid and Manuel Villar scrap the hearings, we may yet hear more direct testimony against Arroyo and company.

Indeed, what made Mayor especially believable was that the people he charged with receiving *jueteng* payoffs all denied his charges, but no one denied the extent to which *jueteng* now riots across the country or the sums Mayor was mentioning. In fact, no one—not PNP Director-General Arturo Lomibao or the senators who did the interrogating—tried to refute Mayor's testimony by demonstrating he was out of his mind to imagine that *jueteng* now blotted out the sun from the land like a plague of locusts and that in provinces like Albay the racket routinely racked up P3 million a day. They only questioned its beneficiaries.

Now, how is it possible that *jueteng* could have reached these proportions without official blessings? How is it possible that sums like these could flow through the arteries of this country without being detected by those who rule it and are desperate for money? How is it possible that the very thing we booted out the president with the biggest electoral mandate for could rage even more ferociously under the term of the president with the smallest (if at all) electoral mandate? Like I said the last time, there are only two things to believe: Either the President is deeply part of it or deeply ignorant of it. I don't know which is worse. But whether one or the other, it is a betrayal of public trust. It is an impeachable offense.

In the same speech last Monday, GMA told the nation: "It's very important to have one Philippines, one united country. For too long we've had two Philippines: one that is good and one that is not good; one that seeks to build and one that seeks to destroy." Well, thanks to her and her family, we now have one Philippines, one united country. One that is opposed to those who are not good for the country, who are dedicated to destroying rather than building.

Them.

A costly distraction

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SENATE inquiry into the *jueteng* scandal opened on Monday with the headline-grabbing testimony by a witness, Wilfredo Cimanis Mayor, who claimed to be a *jueteng* operator based in Bicol. He named at least a dozen officials, including Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, two other congressmen and senior Philippine National Police officials, provincial governors and mayors, who allegedly received pay-offs in exchange for protection.

Mayor, a barangay captain in Daraga, Albay, was the first of eight witnesses offered by Archbishop Oscar Cruz at the joint hearings of the Senate committees on public order and games to back allegations in his "white paper" of widespread involvement of government officials, from the level of close relatives of the President down to provincial and municipal officials. Two Senate hearing rooms were fully packed, recalling the intensive media coverage of the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, triggered by an exposé made by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson accusing Estrada of allegedly receiving *jueteng* pay-offs.

Mayor testified under cover of parliamentary immunity, a protection that allowed him to name names and describe details of the pay-offs, without which he could not have disclosed details without risk of being liable for slander.

A few things stood out starkly from the first hearing. From Mayor's own admission, it was clear that his testimony was based on hearsay, and that Cruz had tried to make a case of implicating a host of officials on the basis of hearsay standing on a layer of hearsay. Mayor admitted that he had no direct evidence of pay-offs, saying that his testimony was based on what he had been told by "bagmen" or intermediaries who delivered the pay-offs to alleged recipients. Mayor also said that he based his conclusion—not hard evidence—that pay-offs had been received on his perception that the operators were allowed to operate after meetings with police officials, implying that they were protecting the operators.

With this kind of evidence based on hearsay, it is reasonable to ask how long this process can sustain high public interest. The public demands more evidence than what witnesses claim without corroboration to establish a credible basis for a case of corruption implicating high government officials. The public will soon get tired with hearings of this nature. Continuation of the smear campaign would allow the administration to claim it is being subjected to a systematic witch-hunt in what the President has described as bid to "undermine my ability to govern."

At this point, it is not too late to raise a few questions:

What is the purpose of the hearings? Is it to collect evidence to warrant criminal prosecution of officials alleged to have received pay-offs? Is it to gather evidence "in aid of legislation" that would bring *jueteng* within the framework of the legal system? Or is it to launch a demolition job to bring about prematurely the collapse of the Arroyo administration and start a people power movement similar to that which brought down the Estrada regime, after being softened by blows from the *jueteng* scandal that laid the ground for his impeachment?

If the purpose is the first, then the nature of the Senate hearings does not serve the purpose. The hearings can turn out to be a fruitless charade from which nothing would be achieved except to fuel public cynicism over the effectiveness of legislative inquiries to stop and punish criminal activities. There is the danger that the inquiry, without a focus on collecting evidence for criminal prosecution, would be politicized to serve other purposes, not excluding bringing about the collapse of the sitting government.

The Senate inquiry has clearly diverted public attention to the unproductive effort of investigating scandals and away from concentrating on the next phase of consensus building on economic issues, following the enactment of the value-added tax law. It has also introduced into the national agenda a highly divisive issue for which no resolution is being offered and which leads to another impasse.

One may ask a question concerning priorities. What is the priority of the day, uncovering scandals or moving forward and addressing economic issues? Focus on scandals exacts high political and economic costs. Apart from diverting energy and attention from economic issues like growth and closing the budget deficit, investigations of corruption scandals hold back the momentum for growth and continuity of economic programs. Besides, corruption investigations have proved to be fruitless exercises that have not led to prosecutions.

Suppose, it is proved in the hearings that presidential relatives have received and, assuming the worst, the President is on the take, then a grim scenario can unfold. If this happens, the stage would have been set for another costly and distractive political exercise—another impeachment trial in the space of just four years while one—that involving Estrada—has not been terminated.

Before we think about this dire possibility, let there prevail a fundamental principle or process in removing presidents from office and punishing wrong-doing. The principle involved is that evidence—not hearsay even those promoted by well-meaning prelates—should determine the outcome of legislative inquiries. That is not the case with the current inquiry. And it is too politically dangerous to allow witch-hunt to hijack the investigations, no matter how unpopular the administration is and how intensely it is hated and loathed.

'We shall return!'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF OUR "economic activities" during our visit to Tacloban over the weekend did not alter Leyte's development profile, surely it must have caused at least a blip in the province's GDP. At least, judging from the boxes of moron, chocolate-laced *suman* and *binagol*, a sweet mixture of ground gabi, peanuts and sugar encased in half a coconut husk, that were being unpacked on the day of our departure.

In addition, there were sealed plastic bags of *roscas*, sweet biscuits meant for dunking into hot coffee or chocolate. Because each biscuit sports a small handle, to spare the dunker's hand from mess and heat, it resembles a toy pistol or "*pusil*" in Waray, so that another name for the biscuit is *pusil-pusil*.

Also very much in demand were *suman latik*, triangular packets of glutinous rice wrapped in heart-shaped leaves, accompanied with a sweet sauce of *latik* or sweetened cooked coconut milk and laced with the flavor of anise. Equally in demand were carabao milk and *ube pastillas*, much tastier and richer than the commercial variety.

A few also dared take home bottles of *sise*, shellfish preserved in brine, which make for a heady appetizer when washed and marinated in *calamansi*.

We were also quite taken with the small pineapples that were so sweet we suspected they might have been dusted with sugar, so of course we had to take home some!

As if our weighty boxes filled with Leyteno foodstuff were not enough, we also had to expend our money on handicrafts, such as bags made from *banig*, colorful native sleeping mats, placemats, woven wall décor and even hand fans fashioned from bamboo. The ladies in our group proved to be such eager shoppers that our supplier had to excuse himself after a while to pick up more merchandise when many others protested that they had been left with nothing to choose from!

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I'M sure it was only the fear of embarrassment that prevented some of us from taking home a *lechon* or roast pig. The *lechon*, of suckling or "*de leche*" size, was a feature in every meal that our "hostess with mostest," our Tita Ansing Jimenez, treated us to.

I'd had my taste of Leyte *lechon* in previous visits, and so could attest to the crispiness of the golden brown skin and the tasty, tender flesh. What I discovered on this trip, however, was that the perfect accompaniment to lechon is not the liver sauce that Tagalogs favor or the vinegar that Visayans and Mindanaoans prefer, but rather slices of boiled *gabi*. The gabi neutralizes the greasy richness of the roast pig, I found, and reduces the sensation of *umay*, or "taste tedium."

Lest you get the impression that we did nothing but eat or think of what next to eat, during our weekend in Tacloban, we did find time for religious obligations, specifically our "Flores de Mayo" celebration which was being held once more in the Jimenezes' "second hometown" after more than 50 years.

Tita Ansing had mobilized a small army of her nephews and nieces and grandchildren from the Lastrilla clan to help with the "Flores" preparations. At the door of the Divine Word Chapel, we were greeted by young boys and girls who hung on our necks tiny souvenir bags containing miniature images of Leyte's patron, Sto. Nino. The choir, we discovered, was also composed entirely of Lastrillas.

In his homily, Fr. Boboy Jimenez, SVD, our main celebrant, observed how our Tacloban reunion, which as Tita Ansing remarked was "seven years in the making," was proof of how important it is "to believe in the impossible." This is faith, he said, and without faith nothing is possible.

***

INDEED, it was sheer faith that led us on to this Tacloban affair, which could have turned into a logistical nightmare without the cooperation and good spirits of everyone.

During the post-Flores dinner at Hotel Alejandro, it was obvious the spirit of family was alive and well not just among the three generations of Jimenezes present, but also among friends who have known the family since the War. Among those who were able to join us at the dinner were: Joe and Deling Larraga, Nenita Torres, former Tacloban Mayor Daric Mate and his wife Luz, Tito and Lily Redona, Teming Pablo, as well as Rep. and former Gov. Matin Petilla, whose family are old friends of Tita Ansing and the Jimenezes, and former Vice Governor and Mrs. Gang Villasin.

Among Tita Ansing's relatives were her sole surviving aunt Aurora Basilio, and a cousin Lily Montejo, who with husband Alex own Hotel Alejandro, named after Alex's father, a respected doctor in Tacloban who delivered my cousin Manoling. The hotel stands just behind the Montejos' ancestral home which has now been turned into a museum.

***

OF COURSE, there were also the members of the Lastrilla clan, over which Tita Ansing reigns as matriarch, especially since she assumed the role of parent of the children of her youngest brother after he passed away at a young age.

Not only did Tita Ansing mobilize them to help with the preparations, she also formed them into a choir. After dinner, two generations of Lastrillas "serenaded" us with a selection of standards, astounding us with the individual and collective quality of their vocal talents. When my uncle Ramy said we had to sing in "rebuttal," to our embarrassment, all we could come up with was a Waray version of the nursery song "The More We Get Together," which we had practiced just that afternoon to welcome our Tita Dida from Los Angeles.

Amid laughter, applause and nostalgic recollections, we Jimenezes basked in the knowledge that decades after most of the family had left Tacloban, the gentle folk still remembered us—or at least our grandparents and parents—with fondness. It goes without saying: of course, "We shall return!"

Thing you cannot do with the flag

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE of the highlights of the 1998 Centennial celebration at the Quirino Grandstand was the grand parade with 100 floats that was supposed to give Filipinos a review of a century of Philippine history. Some historians wondered why the Filipino-American War was notably absent from this survey of history. Floats depicted the evils of Spain to the Philippine Revolution, then made a quick jump to the Thomasites and all the good things the United States brought into the Philippines. Four centuries of our relationship with Spain was oversimplified into caricatures—the lecherous friar and abusive Guardia Civil—and anything positive was swept under the rug. In contrast, America was benevolent. Any evil the Americans did, like the atrocities during the Filipino-American War and the suppression of Filipino nationalism, was swept under the rug. One wonders if our school system still carries this warped view of history.

Then of course, we have the Japanese occupation that is seen to be the worst time in our history. I remember the float depicting a battle between Filipinos and Japanese forces. Naturally, the Filipinos won and one of the actors tore the Japanese flag off a pole and proceeded to trample on it, to the wild cheers and jeers of the crowd. Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon (who by the way is married to a Japanese lady) jumped off his seat as quick as a Jack is ejected from a toy box. He then commented that while this was a reenactment of scenes of World War II, it did not excuse the desecration of a flag of a friendly nation.

This scene made me wonder if we jump when our own flag is desecrated. Whenever I see the numerous ways by which our flag is desecrated or manhandled, I really feel bad. It is quite alarming that some people are not as bothered despite the adoption of Republic Act 8491, better known as the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines. One merely has to go around the country to see faded, tattered flags still flying or, should I say, struggling to fly. These flags, which have seen better days, should be laid to rest in the proper way, by burning and burying them in the ground. I learned how to respect the flag from my Boy Scout days, and I hope that both the Boy and Girl Scouts continue this long tradition, using the present Flag Law.

There are a number of things we cannot do to the Philippine flag. It is obvious that flags should not be mutilated, defaced, defiled or trampled upon. More complicated would be "to commit any act or omission casting dishonor or ridicule upon the flag or over its surface." So much can happen to a flag in everyday life, but then there are some specific prohibited acts that are quite common. Like, the flag is being carried on a pole and is made to dip as a compliment or salute to a person or object. Some people think they are being patriotic when they use the flag as drapery, festoon or tablecloth, but this should not be done. Neither should our flag be used as covering for ceilings, walls, statues or other objects (except on the casket of a person who is entitled to this honor). It also follows that the flag should not be used for unveiling of monuments and statues, even if these be depictions of Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio or even John Paul II. The flag cannot be used as a pennant in the hood, side, back or top of motor vehicles. I don't know where our lawmakers got this strange idea, but they made it unlawful to use the flag as a staff or a whip.

The flag cannot be used as trademarks, or for industrial, commercial, or agricultural labels or designs. This is quite tricky because there are some products that want to use the flag to denote that it is proudly Philippine made. Because the law is so strict, they have to make do with the suggestion of a flag. For example, Beam toothpaste uses flying cloth as a backdrop, with the top having a blue field and the bottom a red field. What was withdrawn once was a juice advertisement where the straw puncturing the tetra pack had a Philippine flag on it. What do we do about restaurants that serve us a juicy steak marked with a flag flying from a toothpick? As long as its not a Philippine flag, it shouldn't worry us.

The flag cannot be worn whole or in part as a costume or uniform. Athletes competing abroad are always guilty of this. Maybe we should revise the rules to make our athletes compete, literally, with our flag.

I also notice that at the end of boxing bouts, Filipino boxers are draped with a flag. I wonder how we deal with that because this is normally done outside our country.

The flag should not be hung under any painting or picture—even if it is that of GMA, Rizal or, again, John Paul II. The flag should never be hung under any platform or podium. And of course, flags are not allowed to fly "in discotheques, cockpits, night and day clubs, casinos, gambling joints and places of vice or where frivolity prevails." The law defines a place of frivolity as "places of hilarity marked by or providing boisterous merriment or recreation."

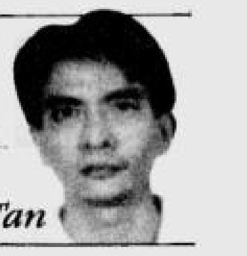
One would think that respect for the flag should come instinctively, but the fact that we need a flag code shows that Filipinos really need to know how to treat their national emblem.

(Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu)

Costs of smoking

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



MANY countries, including the Philippines, have passed laws to restrict smoking, especially in public places. But one country, Bhutan, took the more drastic step last year of imposing a total ban on smoking, the first in the world to do so.

Skeptics might say, oh that's easy to do for a tiny kingdom up in the Himalayas with only two million inhabitants. On the other hand, you have to credit officials there with trying to implement this policy in a country with extremely rugged terrain and with quite isolated villages.

It does help that Bhutan's Buddhist monks have been very active in helping to stamp out smoking, mainly by telling people that smoking violates religious precepts. In fact, as early as 1629 the warrior monk and founder of modern Bhutan, Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, was said to have banned smoking and tobacco chewing from all government buildings and religious places.

A new generation of smokers

May 31 is International No Tobacco Day and I thought of using Bhutan as an example of how anti-smoking campaigns need some new thinking and insights. In the Philippines, we've had anti-smoking campaigns and passed laws to regulate smoking, yet the number of smokers continues to grow. We have to think of new ways of getting the anti-smoking messages through.

Let's look first at the figures for young smokers. The Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS) conducted in 2001 had 96 percent of the respondents (Filipinos aged 15 to 24) agreeing that smoking is harmful to health. Yet, 46 percent of these respondents had tried smoking and 21 percent were currently smoking. That's about three million young smokers.

The YAFS figures come close to those of a Youth Tobacco Survey conducted in several countries in 2000. In the Philippines, that survey involved 11,630 young people aged 12 to 18 and found that 43 percent of the respondents had tried smoking while 22 percent are current smokers.

What was striking with the Youth Tobacco Survey was that our figures for young smokers were quite high compared with some neighboring countries. Compare our 22 percent figure with China's 6 percent and Singapore's 9 percent.

It's likely, too, that more young Filipinos will pick up the habit as they grow older. I suspect the main reason young Filipinos aren't smoking in greater numbers is that they just don't have the money to buy cigarettes.

Thinking out of the pack

I'm afraid we're not going to move too far if we continue to focus our anti-smoking campaigns on the cigarettes themselves, especially with warnings about lung cancer. In fact, if we're going to talk about the health consequences of smoking, we need to deal with a wider array of diseases besides lung cancer. Let's face it, lung cancer has a strong genetic component so there will be people who smoke heavily and yet never get lung cancer, which leads people to give that classic excuse, "My Lola Panching smoked two packs a day and lived to be 105."

If we need to use the cancer bogey, then talk about the way smoking increases risks for several cancers and not just one. For example, women should know smoking is a co-factor for cervical cancer. And recently I heard of an ex-officemate, a heavy smoker, who had died from lung cancer. Yet the lung cancer was the "mild" part. Her cancer had actually spread to the bones and caused excruciating pain, even with morphine.

I know many ex-smokers who dropped the habit after getting a heart attack and realizing smoking causes heart diseases. A heart attack is much more real: get the survivors to talk about what it was like being wheeled into the emergency room. A friend describes it well: "It was like an elephant sitting on your chest, with pain shooting up your chest like lightning."

It's not enough though to just talk about the health consequences of smoking. People, young or old, know what those consequences are, but they also see social "benefits" from smoking. There's irony in the way developed countries and the rich have moved away from smoking, and yet ads continue to promote smoking as glamorous, as classy, as a habit of Americans. We need to counter that image and show smoking makes one look cheap and déclassé. And if people think smoking makes them look youthful, they should be reminded that it causes wrinkles, ugly brown teeth and bad breath. All that's probably more terrifying to them than the possibility of cancer or a heart attack.

Let's use our value of *hiya* (very loosely translated: shame). Men need to be reminded that smoking affects blood circulation, especially to the peripheral organs, including that most vital one. In other words, if you can't get blood there, you can't get it up, or, more crucially, keep it up. What better way to counter the macho image of smoking than to point out that smoking is emasculating? *Nakakahiya*. Thailand and Indonesia both include warnings about smoking as a cause of impotence on their cigarette packs.

Morality

One reason I stopped smoking many years ago was that my young nephew and niece were constantly badgering me about the habit. *Nakakahiya* again.

But even before I stopped smoking, I did make it a point not to smoke indoors or when people were around. Smokers need to understand smoking isn't a matter of an individual right. Passive smoking is harmful. You can cause heart disease and lung cancers in non-smokers. Children are particularly vulnerable. There are numerous scientific reports on how children in smokers' homes have higher rates of colds, asthma and even ear infections.

Appeal as well to the parents' sense of responsibility. Labor unions work so hard to get an increase in the minimum wage (in Metro Manila it's been increased from P300 to P324), but what use is that additional P24 if smoking parents spend P60 a day for cigarettes alone? And both the YAFS and Youth Tobacco Survey showed that the chances of young people smoking were higher if their parents smoked. The addiction is inter-generational, and so are the expenses.

A few months back, we increased the "sin taxes," including taxes on cigarettes. I'm glad they did, but it's not going to be enough to pay for the "sins" of smoking. It's estimated that we'll rake in P18 billion in the tobacco taxes, but we forget that comes from sales of cigarettes that amount to about P54 billion, money literally going up in smoke. And we haven't even counted the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses; as early as 1999, the estimate for those medical expenses came to P46 billion.

During a recent symposium on health financing, a PhilHealth official asked the audience, "Do you think it's fair that we reimburse expenses for treating patients with diseases caused by their smoking?" He had a point. Such reimbursements take up scarce resources that are needed for so many public health concerns.

We don't need to be Buddhist to see that there are moral dimensions to smoking.

Martial law days again?

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez's threat to file inciting-to-sedition charges against any person who may criticize the present administration set us back to the days of colonialism and dictatorship.

The Philippine legislature approved the Revised Penal Code, which contains the provision on sedition, on Dec. 8, 1930, when the Philippines was still an American colony; and Ferdinand Marcos amended it on July 19, 1976 through Executive Order 187. The law, as originally passed, was for the protection of the colonizers; the amendment, for the protection of the former dictator.

The law prohibits people from uttering seditious speeches that may tend to undermine the rule of the foreign power; the amendment restricts activist film directors and producers from releasing any film contrary to the ideals of the "*Bagong Lipunan*."

But we are now in year 2005, long freed from the clutches of the American colonizers and the dictator. Why then does the secretary of justice threaten to file cases for inciting to sedition against people critical of the administration? The public will judge their criticisms as it has judged the utterances of former general Fortunato Abat.

To restrict, with a threat of a criminal case, the right of the people to speak against the administration smacks of violation of the freedom of speech. The only way that this freedom may be violated is when such speech poses a "clear and present danger." In the words of Justice Holmes of the US Supreme Court: "The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent. It is a question of proximity and degree."

Right now, the way I see it, the only "clear and present danger" that the justice secretary may rightfully prevent is his not being confirmed by the Commission on Appointments and not the criticisms against this administration.

—JONNEL D. ESPALDON,
No. 205 Aguirre Avenue,
BF Homes, Parañaque City

Invention for our times

THIS is in reaction to the news item titled "Engine 'defect' adding to woes of car owners." (PDI, 5/1/05) A certain Pablo Planas discovered the "defect" in the car engine. He invented a device now called the Khaos Super Turbo Charger. The invention maximizes the burning of gasoline in the carburetor, thus minimizing the carbon monoxide coming out of the car engine. The Department of Energy and the Department of Science and Technology conducted a test to determine the effectiveness of the device. The test showed enhanced engine efficiency, which means savings in gasoline consumption and almost zero pollution. I hope this turbo charger will be used in solving or limiting air pollution, as well as in cutting down fuel consumption. I strongly urge our government, DOE, DOST and the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. to assist Planas and other interested inventors and researchers in order to serve the needs of time.

—GUILLERMO MACATANGAY ALONSO,
Asturias, Cebu

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Mitigating the impact of sky-high fuel prices

WHILE motorists reel from the onslaught of rising fuel prices, their situation is not as bleak and hopeless as what the political critics of the Arroyo administration would like the public to believe. The government has actually introduced certain fuel-saving measures that could help motorists withstand the rising cost of fuel. The fuel-saving measures are in the form of several traffic-improvement projects that the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways have introduced recently. Unfortunately, these projects have not received the media attention they deserve.

Some examples of these fuel-saving projects are the pedestrian walkways that the MMDA installed along certain intersections of the Marcos Highway in Cainta, Rizal. These walkways, together with the new DPWH-Boni underpass/overpass project, have vastly improved the flow of vehicular traffic as they virtually eradicated the traffic gridlock that used to plague these areas.

As a result, motorists now travel faster. Driving to Makati from Antipolo would now take 30 minutes less than it used to. A 30-minute reduction of travel time could easily mean a fuel savings of about two liters a day or 60 liters a month. If a motorist uses unleaded gasoline which costs around P31 a liter, this means a cost savings of P1,860 (P31 x 60) a month.

To an Antipolo-based motorist like me who goes to Makati or Ortigas every day and uses about 60 liters of fuel a month, I would theoretically enjoy a cost savings of P5.20 a liter (P1,860/360). In a sense, I am therefore only paying about P25.80 (P31.00-P5.20) a liter for my fuel. This is the same price I paid a year ago before fuel prices skyrocketed to all time highs. Due to the higher fuel mileage I now enjoy, I therefore only need to consume 300 liters of fuel a month instead of the usual 360 liters I used in going to Makati and back.

I must admit that under the Arroyo administration, the streets in Metro Manila are better maintained than during the previous administrations. Due to better traffic management, the flow of vehicular traffic in the major thoroughfares has also improved tremendously. Much of the credit should go to the MMDA, the DPWH and the cooperation of Metro Manila local officials who have finally realized that good governance starts with doing the doable.

One could say that these traffic-improvement projects have a limited impact for they only benefit motorists passing through them. Just the same, these cost-saving measures offer a more practical way of mitigating the high costs of fuel and can be easily duplicated in other areas prone to traffic jams. In solving the fuel crisis, they are more effective than the standard approach of pressuring "unscrupulous" and "greedy" oil companies to lower or maintain the selling prices of their fuel products, when world market realities and the law of supply and demand dictate otherwise.

—GERARDO F. QUISUMBING,
gerryq@pryce.com.ph

Unsubstantiated allegations

THIS is in reaction to the news article wherein Sen. Aquilino Pimentel accused President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of benefiting from *jueteng* operations (PDI, 5/21/05). He also alleged that members of the First Family have been receiving protection money from *jueteng* operators.

All these are hearsay, unsubstantiated allegations. Even Pimentel himself has admitted this. Nevertheless, he continues with the deception.

Perhaps, Pimentel is only trying to get media mileage at the expense of the members of the First Family, by putting them on trial by publicity. However, with his unfounded claims, Pimentel is causing harm to the country as a whole.

It seems that the opposition, to which Pimentel belongs, wants to use an old issue against President Arroyo, thinking that the same issue caused the downfall of Joseph Estrada in January 2001. But they are wrong.

Estrada was ousted because of plunder and incompetence. "*Jueteng*-gate" was only the tip of the iceberg. Estrada splurged on extravagant things using people's money, violating the public trust given to him. In the process, he violated every rule in the book and even the country's Constitution.

There are no parallelisms between the Estrada and the Arroyo administrations. The former is known as inefficient and corrupt, while the latter is reform-oriented and has clear-cut policies against graft and corruption with actual records in combating irregularities. The former thought that popularity is enough, while the latter believes in consultations and dialogues, and in empowering the people.

—LEONARDO KIRK I. GALANZA,
Fortune corner Variety Streets,
Fourth Estate Subdivision,
Sucat, Parañaque City

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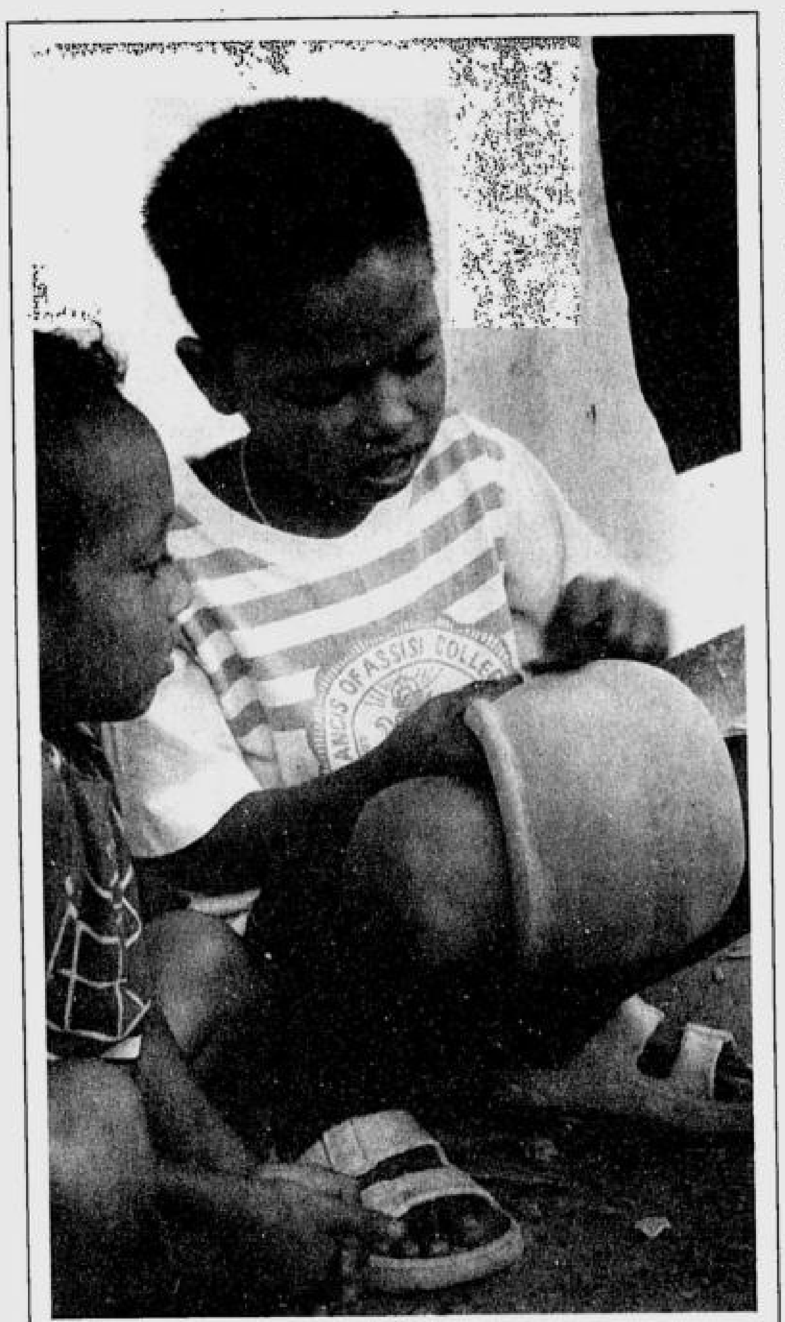
Wage hikes OKd in Visayas, Mindanao



ART AS PLAY JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Instead of playing ordinary games this summer, these boys of Barangay Banglos, General Nakar, Quezon turn to the art of carving wood.

WORKERS in the Visayas and Mindanao are to receive an increase in their daily pay, but the additional income was not expected to silence a militant sector that is demanding more and a business sector complaining that it was too much.

The wage board of Central and Eastern Visayas has approved an P11-P15 increase in the daily pay of workers.

Workers in Eastern Visayas are to receive an P11-increase while workers in Metro Cebu are to receive a P15-increase. Workers elsewhere in the two regions are to receive a P12-increase in daily pay.

In Central Mindanao, the wage board approved an increase of P13.50 in daily pay, but the Kilusang Mayo Uno and other Left-wing groups pressed their demand for a P125-increase in the pay of workers in the private sector.

Joel Gonzales, Central Mindanao wage board secretary, said board members considered several factors before coming up with a new wage order that was expected to draw flak from militant groups.

The board granted a cost of living allowance (Cola) of P13.50 for non-agriculture workers, P10 for workers in the agriculture sector and P6 for those working in the retail industry.

Workers in the non-agriculture sector would receive a basic pay of P213.50 from the current P200 daily wage.

Agriculture sector workers would have a P200 basic pay from P190.

"The cost of living here is lower ... compared to [that in the] other regions, especially in the national capital region," Gonzales said when asked why workers in other regions in the Visayas and Metro Manila would get a higher Cola.

Militant groups in Davao City called for the abolition of the wage board and urged Congress to legislate a wage increase instead.

The Eastern Visayas wage board Monday decided to increase by P11 the minimum wage in Biliran, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar.

The decision came three days after the wage board in Central Visayas last Friday decided to grant a P15-daily wage increase in Metro Cebu, a P12-hike in Cebu province, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

The new wage level in Central Visayas will take effect 15 days after publication in newspapers with regional circulation, said Rodolfo Sabulao, Central Visayas board chair and labor department director.

Forter Puguon, Eastern Visayas wage board chair, said the order is likely to take effect by end of June.

But labor and business leaders were unhappy. "That [increase] is very minimal," said Rene de los Santos, vice chair for labor of the Regional Tripartite Industrial Peace Council, an association of 16 labor groups in Eastern Visayas.

Robert Go, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said the increase was "too big" but businessmen would abide by it.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Joey Gabieta and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

It's waiting game for Ilocos workers

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Workers in the Ilocos region will have to wait until the end of June for another round of minimum wage increase, an official of the regional tripartite wage and productivity board (RTWPB) based here said on Monday.

The board said it believed that increasing wages now would disrupt industrial peace in the region, according to board secretary Exequiel Guzman.

Guzman said small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which comprise 95 percent of the region's industries, would be "severely affected" should a high wage hike be implemented.

Booming micro establishments, which are fast becoming a potential absorber for unskilled workers, would also be threatened by an "impulsive wage order," he said.

The board has not determined the amount for the increase as there were no petitions filed before it from local labor groups, he said.

Establishments with capitalization above P3 million and not beyond P15 million belong to SMEs while micro enterprises have assets below P3 million.

"But definitely, there will be an increase," said Guzman. *Nemesio de la Cruz, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Poisoned fish kills 2, downs 23 others

DAGUPAN CITY—Two men died while 23 others, including a 5-year-old girl from Sual town, were hospitalized after eating *bonor* (brown spotted goby fish) on Monday.

Dr. Allan Laguardia, of the Region I Medical Center (RMC), said the victims complained of numbness of tongue and lips, nausea and vomiting after eating *bonor*.

They were first taken to the Alaminos City District Hospital where one of the victims, Danilo Ramos, 42, died. His cousin, Gerard Ramos, died before reaching the RMC.

Liberato Valdez, 38, said he was shocked when his wife Delia, and four children—Casmere, 14, Sharmaine, 10, Kristine, 7, and Love Joy, 5—felt weak and dizzy after eating the fish for lunch.

"In the ambulance, on our way to the hospital, I did not know whom to attend to first because all my children were complaining of stomach pains," said Valdez, who did not eat the fish as he was then working.

His wife and children were admitted to the RMC.

Valdez said that after his children felt stomach pains, his wife fed the fish leftover to their pet cat. The animal died, he said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Eric Montoya and Ray Zambrano, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Pentagon gang kills 3

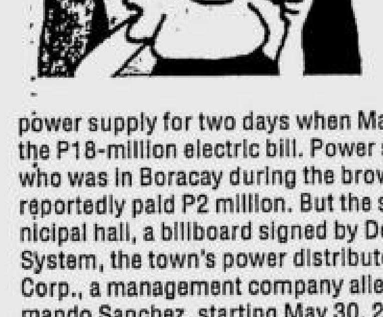
KIDAPAWAN CITY—Suspected members of the Pentagon kidnap gang attacked a village in SK Pendatun, Maguindanao on Sunday, killing three persons, including another suspected gang member, the military said. Col. Alexander Macario, commander of the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion based in Tacurong City, said the attackers, led by a Langalin Gaton, opened fire at the house of Datu Edo Mamaluba at around 9 p.m. Mamaluba and his wife Daliday were killed, along with a suspected bandit. The couple's 11-year-old son was wounded. Macario said that before the attack, a gunman sneaked into Mamaluba's house, but before he could leave, his companions started firing, according to Macario. The Pentagon had been trying to kill Mamaluba on suspicion that he was spying for the military, Macario said.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Landmine kills 3 soldiers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three Army soldiers died and two others were wounded when the vehicle they were riding in hit a landmine in Barangay Koppong in Indanan, Sulu, the military said. Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the soldiers, belonging to the Army's 75th Infantry Battalion, were returning home on a Lite Ace van after fetching water and other supplies on Thursday afternoon when they hit the landmine. "They were following up some logistical support and fetching water for the headquarters," he said. Aleo declined to release the identities of the slain soldiers. He identified those injured as Sgt. Leonardo Pilare Jr. and Cpl. Adonis Canobida. Aleo said the military identified Tahil Sali, a former Abu Sayyaf member, as the main suspect in the planting of landmines along the highway. "He broke up with the group lately and organized a new one operating in Parang and Indanan towns," he said. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

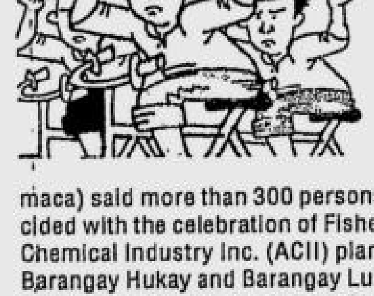
Town loses power again



BAUAN, Batangas—The National Power Corp. (Napocor) has again cut off this town's power supply, after its mayor failed to pay the P12-million electric bill on top of its P310 million in unpaid debts at 1 p.m. Thursday. Losses due to the brownout were placed at P1 million per hour. The power cutoff was the second this month. On May 18, Napocor cut off the town's power supply for two days when Mayor Herminigildo Dolor failed to pay the P18-million electric bill. Power supply was restored after the mayor, who was in Boracay during the brownout, came home the next day and reportedly paid P2 million. But the supply was not sufficient. At the municipal hall, a billboard signed by Dolor said the Bauan Electric and Light System, the town's power distributor, will be under First Bay Power Corp., a management company allegedly owned by Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez, starting May 30, 2005.

Mel Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bikathon against quarrying



CALAMBA CITY—A group of fishermen from Calatagan, Batangas mounted a bikathon yesterday to dramatize their concern over the proposed quarry operations of a cement plant in their municipality and the rapid conversion of their shorelines for commercial use. In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the Samahan ng Maliliit na mga Mangingisda sa Calatagan (Sammaca) said more than 300 persons joined the campaign, which coincided with the celebration of Fishermen's Day. Sammaca said Asturias Chemical Industry Inc. (ACII) planned to put up a cement plant along Barangay Hukay and Barangay Luksuhin, a move that they said would endanger the lives of residents in the area as it may cause soil erosion and landslides.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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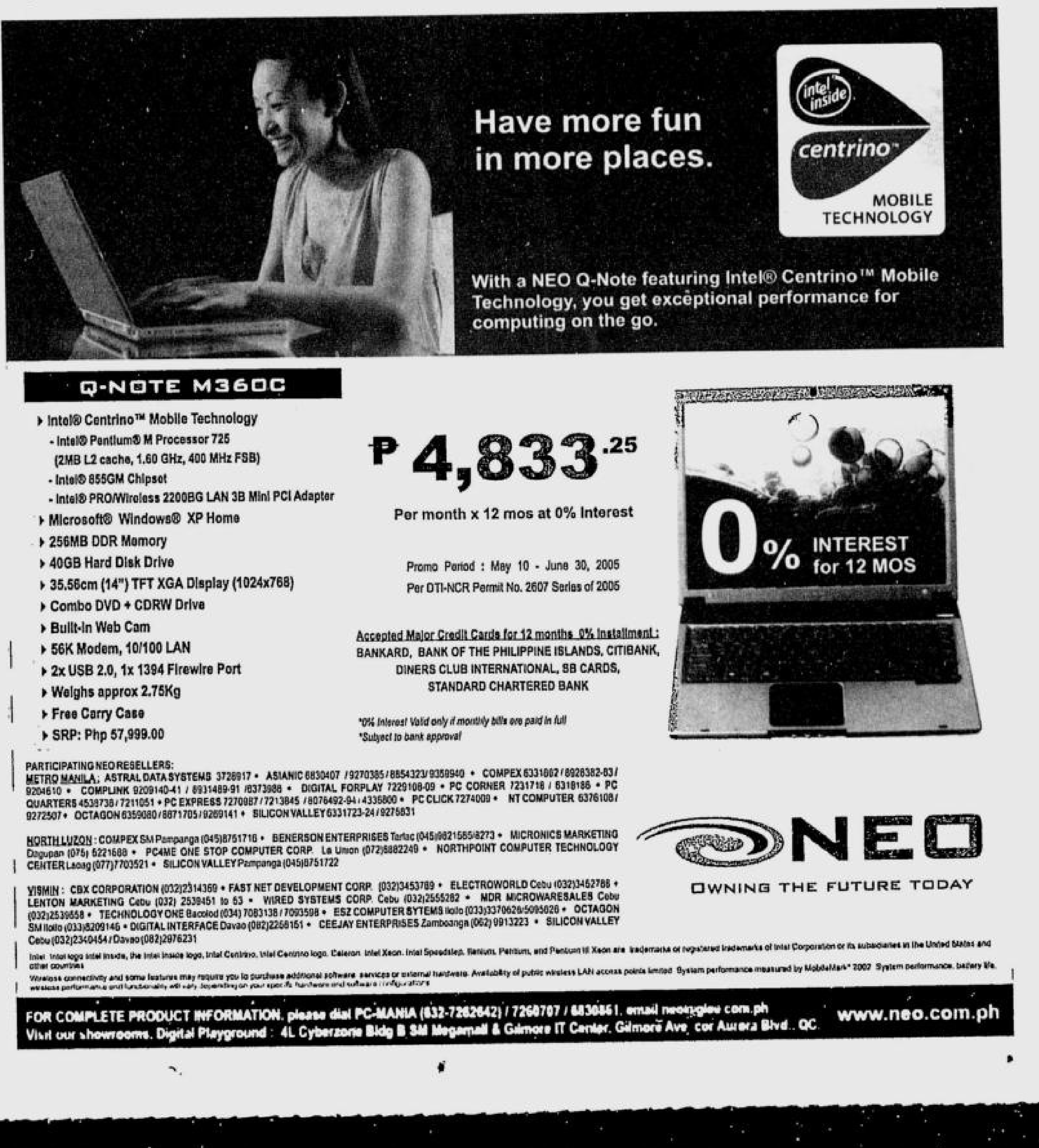
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Convert John Hay to heritage site, dads ask

BAGUIO CITY—It may be nine years too late, but the city council is pushing the conversion of Camp John Hay into one of 10 proposed cultural and historical heritage zones of the summer capital.

Many of the historical structures of Camp John Hay were demolished between 1996 and 1999 to make way for two hotels.

Camp John Hay was the military base where Japanese Imperial Army Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered to American Gen. Douglas MacArthur at the end of the Pacific War.

Only the Bell Amphitheater and the Bell House have been segregated as historical sites under the administration of John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), the estate manager of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

Councilors Leandro Yangot, Edilberto Tenefrancia and Rocky Thomas Balisong said in their proposed measure that the city now "realizes the need to preserve its remaining heritage structures from further destruction ... [and that it] understands that such a move will increase [Baguio's] tourism potential."

The measure puts the heritage zones under the control of a conservation administrator.

Lawyer Georgina Alvarez, senior vice president for legal and corporate affairs of Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), the developer, cautioned the council about the legal conflict between the conversion of Camp John Hay into a heritage zone and its existing status as a BCDA-run special economic zone.

Takeover

A city official said the measure was tantamount to a takeover of Camp John Hay.

The former US rest and recreation center is in the center of a tax dispute over a Supreme Court ruling that nullified the tax benefits of the John Hay Special Economic Zone. The developer has become exposed to a P4-billion uncollected tax, on top of its P1.2-billion back rental.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon and Yangot have strongly criticized Camp John Hay's privatization, and have chastised the BCDA for failing to collect CJHDevco's debts.

Because of the debts, the BCDA has cancelled CJHDevco's lease contract, according to lawyer Lyssa Pagano-Calde, BCDA spokesperson.

A John Hay heritage zone may also deviate from the 19 conditions that the city government set as a prerequisite in 1994 to its privatization, Alvarez said.

Rules

The measure compels structures within the protected zones to conform with "the hill station architecture, particularly the green and white color motif, prevalent during the American colonial period."

This guideline was inspired by the 1999 book, "The origin of Baguio as a colonial hill station and regional capital," by American historian Robert Reed.

Reed traced the city's history to Asia's hill stations, which were high altitude retreats built by European colonists.

The proposed ordinance bars the demolition of 50-year-old structures inside protected heritage zones without the conservation administrator's approval.

The proposal also converts into protected zones the Teachers' Camp, which the Department of Education had once offered for privatization; the 97-year-old Brent School Compound; the 102-year-old Kennon Road which was built by workers of various nationalities; and six streets traversing downtown Baguio.

The measure empowers the council to classify 50-year-old monuments, buildings and other infrastructures into city heritage treasures, city historical sites and city heritage buildings. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

COLORS OF STRUGGLE VAL HANDUMON
A woman walks past walls of orange curtains covering a spot for washrooms for a meeting of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is in peace talks with the government but is demanding an independent Islamic republic.

Davao water firm decides to cut rate hike by half

DAVAO CITY—The Davao City Water District (DCWD) is cutting its proposed water rate increase from 60 percent to 30 percent.

The decision came in the wake of mounting opposition, including that from the business sector, against the increase that would be spread over a three-year period.

Earlier, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, the business sector and militant groups said the 60-percent increase that the utility firm was scheduled to start implementing this year would further burden poor households.

Currently, ordinary households are billed P104 per cubic meter of water.

The DCWD had proposed to collect an additional 30 percent this year, 20 percent next year, and 10 percent in 2007.

"We really need this water rate increase because we have been losing lately due to the zooming hike of prices of almost everything," said Dominador Lopez, DCWD spokesperson.

However, a water district official said the increase would be cut by half "in deference" to Duterte.

"Members of the board explained that while the DCWD truly needs to increase water rates ... management painstakingly made some adjustments particularly in the capital expenditures for the expansion projects while taking into serious consideration that water services will not be sacrificed," the statement, signed by the DCWD's board of directors, said.

Eduardo Bangayan, the board chair, sent Duterte a letter on May 27, informing the mayor of the cut in the rate increase.

Bangayan said with the mayor's "wisdom of judgment," they arrived at the decision after considering three points for management. One of these is to realign and reschedule expansion projects.

The board also said the DCWD management should strictly observe and implement austerity measures in all operations, and look for other ways to possibly fund the expansion projects to meet future demands for the supply and delivery of potable water.

Bangayan told Duterte that even with the decision, the DCWD would always maintain its efficiency. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Negros provinces plan 'organic food island'

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental are entering into a joint venture to enter the world organic market, which is now a $20-billion industry.

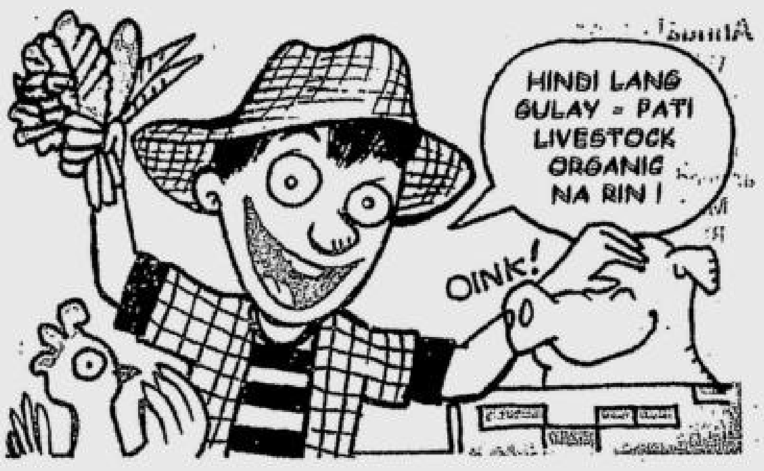
"Our goal is to make Negros the organic food island of Asia," said Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon.

Marañon and Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz met Monday in Dumaguete City to finalize plans for the joint venture.

The aim of the joint venture was for Negros Island to produce organic livestock, swine, poultry and high value vegetable products for sale in the world market.

Marañon said local producers should find alternatives to the use of expensive imported fertilizers as more countries were opting to buy organic products.

"We have to be prepared for the growing demand for organic products now, because preparing the soil will take three to five years," he said.


HINDI LANG GULAY = PATI LIVESTOCK ORGANIC NA RIN!
OINK!

Marañon said the provincial governments of Negros Occidental and Oriental were investing P10 million each to form Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Corp. with 10 board members from both islands and one from Australia.

Both provinces hope to be ready to present this as a model venture at the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement meet on Sept. 21 in Adelaide, Australia to be able to draw potential investors and avail of possible grants.

The IFOAM will eventually certify Negros' products as organic for submission to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Association so that Negros can apply for a $400,000 grant for its venture, said Marañon.

"We cannot compete with China in terms of textile and manufacturing, but in terms of production of organic food we can," he said, "so we must tap into this niche."

"We have to be prepared and we cannot do this overnight. It takes years," he added.

Marañon said an area in Sagay City, Negros Occidental was being tapped for the organic venture, while other towns and cities were being urged to participate in it.

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Power rate cut in Panay stopped by appeals court

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Court of Appeals has stopped the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) from enforcing its order to Panay Electric Co. (Peco) to reduce charges by P2 per kilowatt-hour.

In a decision promulgated on May 27 and signed by Associate Justice Roberto Barrios, the CA issued a 60-day temporary restraining order (TRO) to the ERC to "cease and desist" from implementing a resolution dated May 9, 2004.

In its resolution, the ERC ordered Peco to unbundle its rates and reduce charges.

The TRO was issued following a petition for review filed by Peco against the ERC order.

Barrios ordered the ERC and the intervenors of the case to comment on the petition in 10 days. He also gave Peco five days to reply to the comment.

The intervenors include lawyer Romeo Gerochi, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, the party-list group Bayan Muna, Freedom from Debt Coalition-Iloilo, and the Environmental Consumers Network.

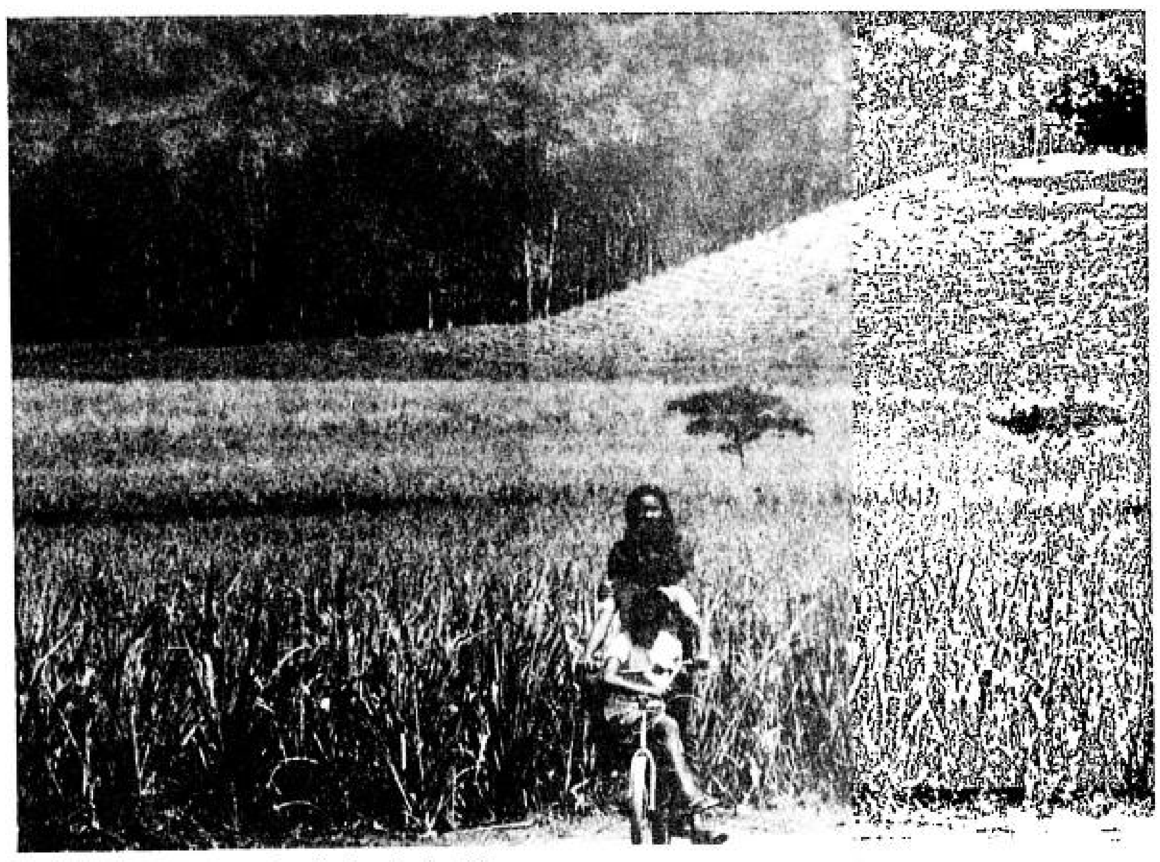
The petition for review is part of Peco's last-ditch efforts to prevent the implementation of the rate adjustment, which would benefit around 40,000 consumers.

Peco is the sole power distributor of Iloilo City's 180 barangays.

The company earlier warned that blackouts could hit the city if it would implement the ERC order.

Gerochi filed a complaint against top Peco officials for alleged grave threats when they issuing the warning.

Named respondents in the complaint before the City Prosecutor's Office were Edmund Afzelius, Peco senior vice president for operations; Jose Maria Cacho, general manager; and Neil Parcon, chief accountant.



A SUGARCANE plantation in San Carlos City on which would rise the country's first ethanol plant. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA launches program to use sugar for fuel

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN CARLOS CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday launched the national bio-ethanol program, which will push the use of ethanol from sugar as a fuel additive to ease the country's dependence on oil imports.

To start the program, the President witnessed the signing of contracts for the P1.5-billion ethanol and power plant—the first in the country—which will be constructed here.

She was given copies of the contracts, including the investment agreement between the British firm Bronzeoak and the National Development Corp. (NDC) to put up equity capital for the plant.

The plant will be built by San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. (SCBI), a joint venture of Bronzeoak Philippines, the NDC and three groups of sugar planters.

Annual supply

Valmayor Hermanos Inc., Gamboa-Ledesma Hermanos, and the GH Farmworkers Multipurpose Cooperative signed an agreement to supply 200,000 of the 300,000 tons of sugar needed by SCBI every year.

Ms Arroyo was also presented a contract of SCBI to supply Petron Corp. 30 million liters of ethanol a year, as well as a copy of SCBI's land agreement with San Julio Realty, owner of the 25-hectare property where the plant will be built.

SCBI signed a contract to provide the Victorias-Manapla-Cadiz Rural Electric Service Cooperative with 5 megawatts of power.

Ms Arroyo told reporters that she would certify as urgent a bill authored by Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri that would mandate the use of ethanol as a mix with transport fuel.

"With crude (prices) nearly doubling in the world market in the last 12 months, it's our duty to act and make our people and our nation less vulnerable. We must fight for energy independence side by side with energy conservation," the President said.

She said the successful utilization of ethanol blends, combined with energy generation from sugar, would reduce the volume of the country's oil imports, help diversify the sugar industry and give extra income to sugar planters and workers.

Excess

The problem of excess of 200,000 metric tons in sugar output experienced by producers in the past will be addressed as the volume will be utilized for ethanol production.

Ms Arroyo pointed out that the country used to be over 60 percent dependent on crude oil as primary source of energy.

But she said that during her administration, this was brought down to 37 percent because "we have been using indigenous sources of power that are abundant in the country such as geothermal, natural gas, wind and now ethanol."

"We are now importing less than 40 percent for energy but for cars, we are importing 99 percent for gasoline and diesel so we are still very dependent on importation," she said.

"In due time we will join Brazil, Canada, United States, Thailand and China in the use of ethanol I have faith in the Filipino that with the combination of hard work and ingenuity I know that we will win that struggle for energy independence," she said.

Construction of the plant will begin in the first quarter of 2006. Operations will start in the second half of 2007.

Jose Ma. Zabaleta Jr., managing director of Bronzeoak Philippines, said the plant would provide 200 jobs to residents of the area.

It will also be capable of producing 100,000 liters of bio-ethanol per day or 25 million liters per year, using 300,000 tons of cane.

"This will contribute significantly to the country's total requirement for a 5 percent gasoline-ethanol blend," Zabaleta said.

The plant will also produce 9 megawatts of power a day.

The byproducts of the ethanol will be used to produce carbon dioxide for beverages, he said.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

LUIS TARUC (1913-2005)

'Let history judge me for what I did'

LAST year, a few days before he turned 91, Luis Taruc (born June 21, 1913) invited INQUIRER *correspondent Tonette Orejas for an afternoon of conversation in Quezon City.*

"Time is running out on me," his persistent bidding went. Old age, he said, brought with it the gift of time to reflect. "I'm living [on] bonus years," he said.

Taruc said except for the arthritis and the diabetes that troubled him once in while, his health allowed him some more time to write and speak about the "same ills" that plagued his time and ours.

Or was he simply forestalling judgment, harsh or otherwise, when the inevitable departure comes and amid the acrimony from stalwarts of the communist movement?

Taruc was a peasant organizer, commander-in-chief of the anti-Japanese resistance army Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap), "dissenter" within the merger of the socialist and communist parties, and an elected representative of the Democratic Alliance.

He was a fugitive on the heels of expulsion from Congress on trumped up charges of terrorism, a hunted leader of a renewed Huk rebellion, a detainee for almost 14 years, an agrarian reform adviser of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, and an advocate of the welfare of aging Huks.

"I'm not afraid of judgment. I have no regrets on the life I led and on the decisions I made," he said.

Following are excerpts from INQUIRER*'s last conversation with Taruc, who died on May 4:*

LUIS TARUC: "To be a patriot, to give one's life and honor to our country and to our people is a very problematic proposition today."

Tell me about your first meeting with Don Perico (Pedro Abad Santos), the man you credit for introducing you to socialism.

I was only 17 and [joining the founder of Partido Sosyalista ng Pilipinas] was the most important decision I ever did in my life. This was in San Luis (Pampanga) in the first week of April 1932 after I finished high school. When I met Abad Santos, he told me: "You're interested in mass work I heard?" I said yes. "You know why I am here?" he asked. I said no and then he said he was going to the biggest village, San Roque, for the inauguration of the socialist party. "You'll come with me?" he asked. I trudged along.

In San Roque, there were many people from [at least] five villages. "Luis, you talk ahead of me," Don Perico said. I hesitated because I did not know what to say. "Tell them why you decided to be a socialist," he said. But I told him I did not know what a socialist was. "We talked about it on the way here. It's about the land and that it should be owned by the farmers, that there should be genuine democracy. That, Luis, is the start of socialism. You'll learn more about it later."

You got converted immediately?

It was easy understanding what Don Perico preached. My parents (Nicanor and Roberta) toiled on borrowed lands in San Luis and Baliuag, Bulacan. With much of the harvest going to the warehouse of the church or the landowner, we (five children, Taruc being fourth in the brood) had to work our way to school or skip it on years when harvest was low.

My first shocking experience was when I was five. When the nuns came, they carried rosaries, big missal books. They told our parents: Why are you stealing our corn? Why are you letting the kids steal our corn?

I told myself why did they call us thieves? Now that we were harvesting these, they came and claimed that the harvests were theirs.

In Bulacan, I was angry that the landlord stopped me and other tenants' children from eating *sili* (chili). To think we were only served *malamig na kanin* (cold rice) after we were ordered to clean the entire mansion.

When did you go full-time in the movement?

I first stopped running my tailor shop to resume college. I worked at the Manila Water District and studied at night at the National University in Manila. After more than two years in college, I had a falling out with (then Interior Secretary Don Honorio Ventura, his patron) who quarreled with (President) Manuel Quezon over the Hare-Hawes Cutting Law [the law that set a specific date for Philippine independence from the United States]. I sided with Quezon who opposed the presence of American military bases after independence but who ended up instead with the Tydings-MacDuffie Law [in 1934] that signaled unfair trade. I found it pointless to be pursuing my studies when the government seemed not to be caring enough for the welfare of the common people.

I returned to Pampanga in 1935 and rejoined Abad Santos. I left behind my wife Feliciana and our newly born son Romeo in Manila.

What did you do in the party?

Don Perico entrusted to me the organizing of the Aguman da reng Maldang Talapagobra (AMT or General Workers Union). Although organized in 1932 after Abad Santos ended his political career as congressman, the Partido Socialista did not have a constitution to speak of. That task fell on my shoulder. In the 1936 assembly, I was elected secretary-general of both the party and the AMT.

Don Perico died in 1945. How did he define socialism?

We cannot do it by the quick and violent process of the communists—our country being basically Christian, our people basically democratic. They wanted to be evolutionary. But we will come to that, *kapag sumama nang sumama, magrerebolusyon din yan* (if the situation worsens, revolution will eventually come). But we will not advocate it. It will come by historical, logical development. But if we can help influence the political development of the country by evolutionary method ending into revolutionary (method), *mas maganda* (that would be better).

What's your problem with the PKP?

Leaders [of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas-1930] disagreed with me, accusing me of distorting Abad Santos' [ideas]. They called me an "anti-communist propagandist."

But we did share a common analysis on who was the extreme evil [then]: Japan and the fascism and militarism it symbolized. That's why when the war broke out, we sided with America despite all its faults. The merging of the two parties, which came in 1938, was based on the need to prepare to fight Nazism, fascism and Japanese militarism and the eventual Japanese invasion of the Philippines.

Why would the Japanese invade us? Because outside the American continent, the biggest bases in the world were in the Philippines. Whether we like it or not, even if we were called a commonwealth, we were still a colony.

Your role in the Huk?

The Hukbalahap was formed in 1942. In the meeting of the communist and socialist parties, League for the Defense of Democracy, Prente Popular, AMT and Nacionalista Democrata, it was Abad Santos who recommended me to organize the people's army as a continuation of the patriotic struggle of the Filipino people.

The recruits came largely from the AMT chapters in Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bulacan, Laguna and Quezon. The number of fighters was between 75,000 and 100,000. About 30,000 were fully armed by guns that were left behind by the soldiers in the Bataan Death March of 1942, taken from or lent by the landlords or snatched in ambuscades against the Japanese Army. Our slogan was: Our arsenals are Tokyo and America!

You're still bitter against the US?

The sad part of it was we were the ones who helped the Americans liberate prisoners held in Japanese camps. We liberated something like 1,000 [prisoners]. We were the suicide force together with the 6th Army Division. We helped liberate 4,000 American civilians at the University of Santos Tomas. We helped free another 2,400 in the Los Baños prison camps. But after the war, the Americans did not recognize us and sent us to prison instead.

(Editor's Note: By the end of 1944 when the Hukbalahap established its government throughout most of Central Luzon, Taruc was captured in San Fernando, Pampanga, then locked in the national penitentiary and later at the Iwahig Penal Colony in Palawan).

What happened after the war?

The Americans called for elections. In absentia, I won under the Democratic Alliance. Then Speaker and presidential aspirant Manuel Roxas invited me to be his running mate. I did not accept the offer. I did not want to be a traitor. I returned to the hills in August 1946. By 1948, the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB) was born against feudal landlordism, puppetry and American imperialism.

My disagreement with the communist leaders widened. Gusto ko malayang pananampalataya. Huwag kayong sumunod sa (I like freedom of religion. Don't go with the) corrupt democratic system ng capitalism. Capitalism has many defects but it is [a result] of feudalism and monarchy so we cannot escape it.

But you surrendered?

By 1954, the hostilities deepened. To avoid any bloodshed and I being branded in history as having initiated and having ordered the killing of my opponents in the party, *kanila na ang partido* (let the party be theirs). Let history judge me for what I do, for what I did. Nakipagkasundo ako kay (I had an agreement with) Ninoy (Benigno Aguino Jr., then Manila Times reporter who later became a senator) that they would not call it "surrender" but a "negotiated agreement" with [President Ramon] Magsaysay. But I landed in prison from 1954 to 1968. Many temptations were offered—jobs, money, women. *'Kako* (I said), you cannot buy me.

Lessons?

To be a patriot, to give one's life and honor to our country and to our people is a very problematic proposition today. Those in power will reward you with the opposite. The revolution can only move according to how much the masses understand us, how much the masses are willing to support us. If we try to lead the masses away from what they understand, we are committing an error.

Volunteers protect marine sanctuary from poachers

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Anda, Pangasinan

IT WAS 2 a.m. on May 26 and after hours of chasing eight motorboats in the cold, dark sea, members of the fishery law enforcement team (FLET) of Anda, Pangasinan, caught 10 illegal fishermen from Alaminos City.

But the day's work was not over for Precillano Onzaga, 49, and his team. They had to wait for daybreak to take the fishermen to the local police station and file charges of violation of fishery laws.

"They were lured by the abundant fish in our seawater. They were using fine mesh-nets and other gear prohibited under our fishery laws," Onzaga said.

Onzaga, himself a fisherman, has dedicated his life to the protection of the seawater of the island town. This dedication has earned him the chairmanship of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC).

He's always on the go—filing ordinances that will conserve and protect the sea, meeting with his fellow fishermen, patrolling the municipal waters or catching fish using his boat.

Since he was a boy, Onzaga has been enamored with the sea. He would accompany his father during his fishing trips and learned early that the sea was a very good source of livelihood.

BOAT MAN Precillano Onzaga, 50, heads the fishery law enforcement team in Anda, Pangasinan.

EV ESPIRITU

He has also seen how the sea's resources dwindled throughout the years because of illegal activities like dynamite fishing and fine-mesh nets.

When former Anda Mayor Alice Pulido and the local government established fish sanctuaries in the town, Onzaga made sure that he would be part of the team that will protect the marine resources.

Silent killer

Onzaga, however, said fishermen and the local government have a new headache in cyanide that some fishermen use. He described cyanide as a "silent killer" of corals that they were trying to rehabilitate.

He said the use of improvised dynamite sticks was on the wane, but the use of cyanide, which is more destructive, was on the rise.

He told the INQUIRER that some fishermen were shifting to cyanide because, unlike dynamite fishing, it would be difficult to detect those using it.

The poisonous substance is sprayed on coral areas, making the fish dizzy and forcing them out of the corals. "Using cyanide is worse than dynamite blasting. It is more destructive to corals because the poison spreads to a bigger area, killing more corals," Onzaga said.

He said some fishermen, when confronted by *bantay dagat* (sea guards) teams, would merely throw into the sea the chemicals they were using so no evidence could be found in their boats.

He said the illegal practice began early this year when a businessman involved in trading aquarium fishes started contacting fishermen in Anda and its neighboring coastal towns. He did not identify the businessman

"In the past, cyanide was used only to gather aquarium fishes, but now it is also used to catch fish for consumption," he said.

Fish sanctuaries

The town has five fish sanctuaries that local fishermen protect from all kinds of fishing activities.

The patience of the fishermen is paying off as fish and other marine animals are multiplying fast and the corals are being rejuvenated in the sanctuaries.

"This is why we are more determined to protect our sea resources. But some businessmen and fishermen could not understand yet what we are trying to do," Onzaga said.

But he said the penalty imposed on fishery law violators was very light so some pleaded guilty, paid the fine of P2,000 and repeated the violation.

But he said he and other legitimate fishermen would never tire of guarding the sea, even at the risk of losing their lives to some illegal fishermen.

"The sea is our life. We will always protect it," Onzaga said.

Mikey's wish: To be beyond reproach

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—As allegations that he received jueteng protection money hound him with pestering regularity, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo said he has found himself struggling to meet the high expectations set by two Presidents in the family.

"There should be no doubts about us," he recalled the advice of his mother, President Macapagal-Arroyo, when she gave her blessing to his plan to run for Pampanga vice governor in 2001, his first bid for public office.

His grandfather, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, prescribed the same standard while he was the Chief Executive, the 36-year-old lawmaker remembered.

"The pressure to behave properly was always there from the very start," added Arroyo, who represents Pampanga's second district that includes Lubao, the hometown of the Macapagals.

His wish to be "beyond doubt" has been elusive in his five years in politics. He has had no respite from controversies. One reason may be a result of his being "ultra frank."

According to former provincial administrator Benalfre Galang, the vice governor humiliated him by saying, "*langaw ka lang* (you're just a fly)" on the young Arroyo's first day in the capitol.

Using advantage

As presiding officer of the provincial board, Arroyo avoided controversy, never challenging former Pampanga governor and now Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid on the alleged quarry scam.

As the President's son, he used that advantage to facilitate more projects for his province, among them public buildings.

The next weeks and months were about how his friends, businessman Paolo Hizon and former Vice Mayor Arturo "Katoy" Naguit of Minalin town, were fronting for him in government contracts and jueteng payoffs.

In an interview in 2003, Hizon and Naguit strongly denied doing those things for Arroyo. But the reports persisted. In between were several incidents of his supposed heavy drinking and womanizing, matters that Arroyo laughed off as "gossip."

He was said to have also facilitated the appointments of six former politicians, all Kapampangan, to national and regional positions.

Out of the capitol and into Congress, he is said to have now a say on efforts to take the quarry industry out of Lapid's control and make it a possible source of his senatorial campaign kitty for the 2007 elections.

Mikey's houses

For almost a month now in Pampanga, word has been circulating that he had bought a new house and lot worth $1.1 million in San Francisco, California, through Hizon, and had his home in La Vista Subdivision in Quezon City renovated through former Transportation Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque.

In his home province, an old follower of his grandfather viewed him as more of an Arroyo than a true-blue Macapagal, meaning he did not have the stuff that the two Presidents were made of.

Mikey said he has always braced himself for the comparison but it did not mean he was not going to carve a good name for himself.

Mikey . . .

From page A1

or's claim that top police officials had acted as protectors of the illegal numbers game and that their permission was sought before anyone could operate the game.

"It's a sweeping statement. He has to give specifics. It's unfair to a lot of professional men and women of the PNP who are not in any way involved," said Bataoil.

He said the entire PNP supported Director General Lomibao. "We stand behind his leadership, integrity and capability to lead the PNP."

Mayor said he met Lomibao in the latter's Pangasinan home when he was chief of the Ilocos regional police and that shortly after he was able to start jueteng operations in the area. Lomibao said during the Senate hearing he did not recall meeting Mayor.

Recounting conversations with alleged bagmen, Mayor had disclosed that jueteng operators provided P200,000 weekly for officials in Camp Crame, and P120,000 monthly for the intelligence group also based in Camp Crame.

A waste of time

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Congressman Imperial said he knew nothing about jueteng operations. "I will just be wasting my time answering his baseless accusations."

Arroyo said friends named by the confessed gambling lord as having accepted payola on his behalf were also planning to seek legal redress. He referred to Rene Maglanque, 39, a former Pampanga provincial board member, and stockbroker Leo Katigbak, 33, a boyhood friend at La Vista Subdivision in Quezon City.

"We are wondering what license Mayor has to spew out all these lies, and why the senators seem to have accepted his statements at face value. We, the ones he named, know with full certainty that he is lying through his teeth," the two said in a joint statement.

Edna Herrera-Batacan, counsel for Maglanque, said she believed there were ample grounds to file civil and criminal cases against Mayor. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Margaux C. Ortiz; and Jed. Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Text messages swamp PNP: 'Jueteng' still on

From page A1

pine National Police was swamped with text messages all saying the same thing—contrary to its claims, jueteng operations apparently still persist in Luzon.

Of course, the text messages needed to be verified, a top police official said yesterday.

But from May 29 to 30, the PNP's Text 2920 received 57 text messages on jueteng, and from May 30 to 31, another 20 messages.

"We noted an increase in the number of text messages reporting the existence of jueteng during the last few days. We think it is because the public have become more aware of the police campaign against it," said Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, head of the Police Community Relations Group.

Before the jueteng controversy broke out, police said their crime reporting system would receive three to five text messages a day about the illegal numbers game.

The messages started pouring in after Friday, when the police declared Luzon "virtually free" of the poor man's vice. This claim had been affirmed, disputed and rejected by independent sources.

Over the weekend, the police urged residents to validate these claims by sending a text message to 2920. They asked texters to include specific places, and whenever possible, to identify specific people involved in jueteng.

Goltiao said the text messages had been relayed to regional police commands so top police officials could verify them, and act on the reports if they were proven true.

Most of the text messages reported the continued operation of jueteng in Bicol and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) areas.

According to the messages, jueteng continued to persist in Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), and Regions 1 (Ilocos), 2 (Cagayan Valley), 3 (Central Luzon) and the National Capital Region.

Many of the messages were sober and informative.

"There is still jueteng in our place. They play it here three times a day," said one.

Some were from irate texters: "They rounded up *cobradors* (collectors) yesterday. But it's all *moro-moro* (farce) ... jueteng continues here."

Some begged for immediate action: "Send [a police] asset here so he can see for himself."

Sacked

Goltiao said the text messages were being taken seriously. Police commanders had been directed to verify the reports and conduct raids. If the messages turned out to be false, the field commanders were still required to submit a report, he said.

Last week, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao gave field commanders until Friday to submit a certification, signed by the mayor and the local parish priest or leader of the dominant church, saying that their area had been cleared of jueteng.

Several police chiefs had already been sacked in areas where the illegal numbers game persisted.

On Tuesday, Lomibao relieved Senior Supt. Arnold Revilla, head of the Sorsogon provincial police; Supt. Saadra Gani, chief of Sorsogon town police, as well as Chief Insp. Cerilio Trilles Jr., chief of Bato, Camarines Sur.

Bishop Oscar Cruz read the winning combination of the jueteng draw in Bato town during Monday's Senate inquiry, prompting Lomibao to relieve the chief of police in the area.

All-out against gambling

After being cleared of allegations that he had received protection money, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes is going all out to fight not just jueteng, but all kinds of illegal gambling.

Reyes yesterday ordered the PNP to seize and immediately destroy coin-operated video *karera* and fruit-game machines as part of the government's intensified campaign against illegal gambling.

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Canada bet crowned Miss Universe 2005

From page A1

with nothing, and now we've got so much," she said, adding that she planned to use her role as Miss Universe to raise awareness and money for HIV/AIDS research.

Glebova was picked over runner-up Cynthia Olavarria of Puerto Rico after answering a final question about what she considered her biggest challenge in life.

"I'm the kind of person who looks at the glass half full," she said, "I always try to maintain a positive outlook on life."

Renata Sone of the Dominican Republic was second runner-up, Laura Elizondo of Mexico was third runner-up, while Monica Spear of Venezuela placed fourth in the pageant.

The Philippines' Gionna Cabrera was voted Miss Photogenic, while Thailand's Chananporn Rosjan won Best National Dress. US Virgin Islands' Tricia Homer was Miss Congeniality.

Gowns in the morning

With the Miss Universe pageant broadcast live during prime time to the United States, contestants were forced to look their best at an unseemly hour, taking the stage in evening gowns as early as 8 a.m. Thai time (9 a.m. Manila time).

In the middle of the show, the conference hall fell silent for a minute in memory of the more than 228,000 dead or missing from the Dec. 26 Indian Ocean tsunami. Nearly 5,400 of the victims were in Thailand.

The silence contrasted with some of the strident criticism leveled against the 54-year-old pageant in its earlier stages.

Pageant contestants arrived in Thailand about three weeks ago and have since visited tsunami-struck areas along the southern coast and historic Buddhist temples around Bangkok.

Bikini beauties in Wat Arun

Photos of bikini-clad contestants posing near a revered temple stirred up a controversy in the predominantly Buddhist country. The images showed the contestants aboard a boat on the Chao Phraya river with Wat Arun, the famous Temple of the Dawn, in the background.

After the Thai government complained about the images two weeks ago, organizers pulled them from the pageant's website and video footage for yesterday's competition.

The contestants also went around the country riding *tuk-tuks* (Thailand's three-wheeled motorcycle taxis) and elephants—Thailand's national symbols.

Indonesia's first Miss Universe hopeful in nine years also sparked a storm back home in the world's most populous Muslim nation with her decision to take part in the swimsuit part of the competition.

Even though 25-year-old law student Artika Sari Devi opted to wear a one-piece swimsuit rather than the skimpier two-piece bikinis favored by most contestants, conservatives reacted with anger, branding the pageant "pornography."

Early favorite

Glebova was chosen by a panel of 12 judges, who included six Americans, and Miss Universe 2004 Jennifer Hawkins of Australia. Bookmakers had ranked women from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Glebova, as favorites to take the coveted crown.

Glebova won the audience by saying "thank you" in Thai and pressing her palms together near her chest and bowing in a traditional Thai *wai* (greeting and show of respect). She said being thrust into the spotlight could serve as inspiration for other immigrants around the world.

Thai hopes

The early minutes of the show suggested an intriguing inter-regional showdown, with the United States, Israel and the world's largest Muslim nation Indonesia reaching the final 15.

Thailand hoped the pageant would boost its tourism sector, which was badly hurt by last December's tsunami. It estimated that the event and related activities would generate more than 2.1 billion baht (P2.9 billion) of revenue.

"I hope that the Miss Universe contest will help encourage tourists back to the tsunami-hit areas," said Vijit Naranong, president of the Thai Tourist Association's southern chapter.

The United States has produced the most winners with seven, while Puerto Rico and Venezuela each have four crowns.

The Philippines, Thailand and India each have two titles.

The Miss Universe franchise is a partnership between real-estate tycoon Donald Trump and US television network NBC.

It was watched by an estimated one billion people in 170 countries. *AP, Reuters, AFP*

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KOMODITI
kontes
KECANTIKAN
merendahkan
MARTABAT
KHILAFAH
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PEREMPUAN
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MISS Canada Natalie Glebova (left) models an evening gown during the Miss Universe pageant. At right, hundreds of Indonesian Muslim women hold a protest in Jakarta against the Miss Universe beauty contest in Bangkok, which, they said, "disparaged woman's status." REUTERS/AFP

Court orders arrest of Garcia; no bail set

From page A1

AFP (Isafp) in Camp Aguinaldo, where he had been detained since October 2004.

Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta presented the arrest warrant to Provost Marshal Col. Henry Galarpe shortly before 2 p.m.

Galarpe then accompanied the sheriff to Garcia's detention quarters to serve the arrest order.

Garcia, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, was whisked out of the Isafp compound on board a coaster at 2:28 p.m. after he completed a medical examination.

"The Sandiganbayan will determine where his next detention center will be. We will leave him there," said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual.

One of Garcia's lawyers, former Makati Judge Jose Bautista, said there was a pending motion before the antigraft court to allow Garcia to stay at the Isafp for "security and medical" reasons.

"There's a threat on his life," Bautista said without elaborating.

He said Garcia needed the security that being inside the Isafp building provided, along with the medical facilities that the retired general needed.

Bautista also said his client needed a physician and an ambulance on hand whenever he attended his court-martial.

By Bautista's account, Garcia was in a "stable and pleasant mood" when the warrant was served.

"He's taking the matter kindly. He knows the matter has to be addressed. But he maintains our motion to be granted permission to stay in Isafp," the lawyer said.

Garcia's court-martial in Camp Aguinaldo will continue despite his transfer.

Pascual said the military tribunal would request Garcia's presence from wherever detention center he would be held.

Sheriff Urieta said Garcia would be held at the Sandiganbayan cell until the justices of the second division issue an order on where to have him detained—at Camp Aguinaldo or at the Quezon City jail, where hardened criminals are incarcerated.

Chief Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio expressed satisfaction over news of Garcia's arrest. But he wondered why no arrest warrants were issued for the retired general's wife and sons.

"We're disappointed. It was Clarita who admitted that Garcia had received money," Villa-Ignacio said.

Garcia is accused of amassing unexplained wealth, including houses and other assets in the Philippines and in the United States.

The case stemmed from the disclosure last year by US authorities that two of the Garcia sons were caught at the San Francisco airport trying to bring in thousands of dollars.

Clarita Garcia later told US authorities in a letter that the money was "gratitude money" given to her husband as part of the perks of being AFP comptroller.

'She is here'

On April 15, Garcia's lawyers confirmed to Justices Sandoval, Francisco Villaruz and Rodolfo Ponferrada that Clarita Garcia was in the country and would be turned over to the Sandiganbayan once a warrant was issued for her arrest.

"Yes, your honors, Clarita is in the Philippines, within the Philippines," Bautista had said.

Collaborating counsel Constantino de Jesus confirmed his colleague's statement and assured the court that Garcia's wife would surface once an arrest warrant was issued.

"Yes, she is here, and she will come out," De Jesus said.

The defense lawyers asked the court to hold in abeyance the issuance of arrest warrants for the family until after a judicial determination of probable cause was made.

De Jesus also told the court that the Garcia sons were "abroad," most likely in the United States.

'Great news'

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said the issuance of a warrant for Garcia's arrest was "great news for justice."

"It means that the Philippine justice system is working, albeit a little slow[ly]," said Golez, chair of the House committee on national defense and security.

He called on Garcia to be "man enough to tell the whole truth."

Golez, who initiated an inquiry last year into Garcia's case, said he was proud that the House committee on national defense had played an important role in the effort at fighting graft in "high places" in the AFP.

"I'm morally convinced that he could not have done all the plunder he is accused of without the participation of others in the AFP-Defense establishment," Golez said.

Garcia invoked his right to privacy during the inquiry, but admitted that the AFP budget could not be disbursed without the approval of the chief of staff.

Golez congratulated the Office of the Ombudsman for investigating and subsequently prosecuting Garcia before the Sandiganbayan. But he said the Ombudsman should not spare other corrupt ranking military officials.

"I urge them to pursue this case with greater vigor until all those responsible are charged," he said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Bunye says ...

From page A1

against the President's son were only allegations.

Asked if Malacañang had anything to fear if the jueteng controversy was prolonged, Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo "is very much in control of the situation."

'Credible witness'

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero vouched for Mayor's credibility as a jueteng insider.

"Most of the time I see him on the plane when I go home to Bicol," said Escudero, who comes from Sorsogon, which is next to Mayor's home province of Albay.

"It's known all over the place that he is a jueteng lord," said Escudero.

Escudero said Mayor's testimony, if corroborated, could bring the jueteng stigma closer to Malacañang.

"The first step has been done," he said.

"The fact that Mikey knows the bagman, Arthur Naguit, that can't be denied. If he [Naguit] were dead, Mikey could defend himself by saying, 'Produce him.' But Mikey did not deny that he knows the bagman," he said.

'A good lead'

Some senators and even Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez agreed that Mayor's testimony should provide a "good lead" in unmasking jueteng protectors in government.

"I think it's too early to say [that his testimony is] hearsay," said Sen. Manuel Villar.

Villar said that as chair of one of the two committees conducting the joint inquiry into jueteng, he should be impartial, but he added that Mayor's charges should not be dismissed even if he could not offer direct evidence.

"We don't know yet whether his statements will be corroborated by future witnesses. I think what he said yesterday is something you can work on, you cannot dismiss it. You can pursue it," Villar said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon also said that while Mayor's testimony "appears to be mostly hearsay," his assertion that jueteng financiers were allowed to operate after paying protection money to local officials was "worth looking into."

Probe to spare no one

Gonzalez, under fire for threatening to file charges against Mayor and other whistle-blowers, echoed the assessment of Villar and Drilon.

"His testimony is hearsay, but it is a good lead. If followed up properly, that is a good lead, for example, if he can get the bagman ... who will be able to testify that what he said is true," he told Senate reporters.

"Even a text message is a lead. Now here is a person who testified, although he says he does not have contact with Mikey, but it is a lead because he said the money he gave was for Mikey, so that's a good lead," Gonzalez said.

Asked if he believed the lead was worth pursuing, he said: "Why not?"

But Gonzalez said it was the Senate which was in a position to pursue Mayor's lead.

He said he would have no problem investigating the President's son and her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, for any connection they might have with jueteng.

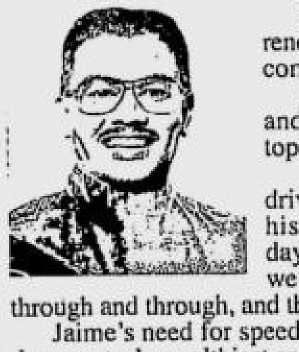
"If he (Mayor) informs me and we get the same testimony, I will pursue it. The President has ordered me to go against anyone," Gonzalez said, noting Ms Arroyo's statement that she would let the chips fall where they may.

"She knows that they [husband and son] have been implicated, she has not asked me to stop. I'll proceed," he said.

He said his office had jurisdiction over the First Gentleman. He said if he found evidence against Congressman Arroyo, he would recommend the case to the Office of the Ombudsman and added that even the ethics committee of the House of Representatives could initiate a case against the President's son.

But Gonzalez also said: "I won't pursue it if there is no evidence." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nikko Dizon*

Filipino racing great crosses final finish line



Former Filipino racing champion Jaime Villa, Jr., one of Asia's renowned driving legends in the past decades, has passed away from complications of liver cancer at the Yorkshire Medical Center.

Jaime, 65, made a combined 78 starts in the Le Mans 24 hours and the FIA GT Championship from 1969-81. He accrued two top-five and three top-10 finishes in his career.

"Our sport was built by people like Jaime Villa," said fellow driver Michael Ira Ruidera, who raced alongside Villa for virtually his entire career. "We all did things the same way in those days – we drove ourselves to the race track, we worked hard when we got there, we raced hard and then we drove home. J.V. was a racer through and through, and the sport is better because he was a part of it. We will truly miss him."

Jaime's need for speed has brought him much fame and fortune. Financed by some of the country's wealthiest sponsors, Jaime took the global racing scene by storm. Trained by some of the best drivers in Europe, Jaime earned the moniker "The Weasel" for his sharp turns and quick step at the throttle.

Villa is survived by his wife of 32 years, Carolyn; their only son Barton and daughters Mikaela and Selina. After being diagnosed with liver cancer and hospitalized a month ago, Jaime started divesting his businesses to his children, especially to Barton – a brand manager for Villa's automotive parts empire – who is expected to take over and manage the family business.

His remains lie in state at Casa de Soledad, the Villas' ancestral home in Taal, Batangas. Interment is on June 5, 2005 at Renaissance Park in Alabang.

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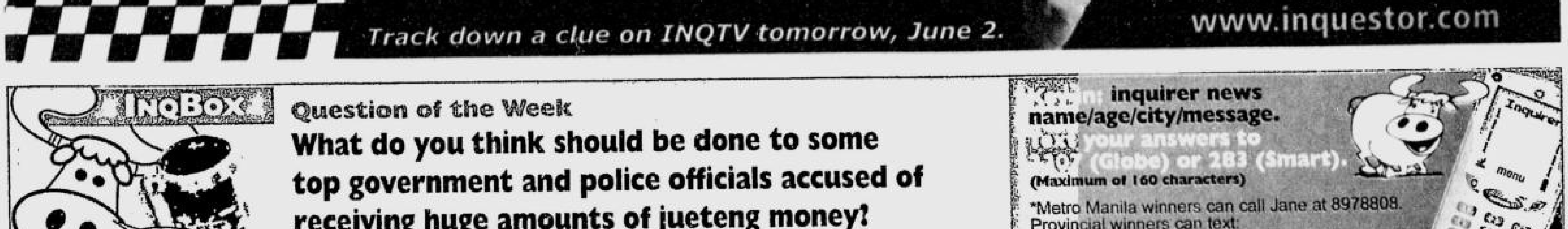
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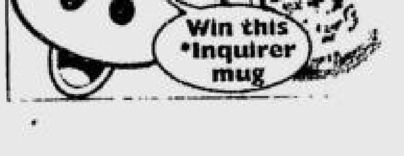

Question of the Week
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Curator bucks new tutors' HQ

By Tina G. Santos

A NATIONAL Museum curator yesterday said that excavations for the proposed two-story teachers' building in the contested Arroceros Park in Manila should stop, saying more archeological artifacts could be found in the area.

Winner Foundation, an environmental organization taking care of the park, is against the construction of the building, saying the move would mean the destruction of lush foliage inside what is called Manila's "last lung."

This developed as Angel Bautista, Curator I of the National Museum's Cultural Properties Division, claimed that they found several pieces of ceramic and stone wares belonging to the Ming Dynasty while they were conducting an ocular inspection of the area yesterday.

"I will recommend that excavations (in the area) be stopped. A team will also be sent to analyze and conduct a more intensive archeological study of the site so they can assess and document the artifacts found in there," Bautista told the INQUIRER.

In April 2003, the National Museum declared the forest park an archeological site because of strong indications and evidence that the park was rich in cultural artifacts.

Corazon Alvina, National Museum director, said this was based on archeological excavations undertaken in nearby sites housing the Mehan Garden, the Metropolitan Theater, and the Government Service Insurance System building. The diggings yielded significant cultural artifacts dating back to the 16th to the 18th centuries AD, Alvina said.

Bautista said their initial findings showed that some of the materials found yesterday were recovered from filling materials (*panambak*) gathered by the construction workers from a different source.

However, Bautista said they also discovered a ceramic water pipe believed to be used during the Spanish period along one of the trenches.

This was a good indication that more archeological materials could be found in the undisturbed areas of the forest park, he added.

Earlier, Manila Division of City Schools Superintendent Dr. Ma. Luisa Quiñones said that they had been told that not the entire 2.1-hectare property was considered an archeological site.

Bautista, however, said that nobody can say where one will find the artifacts "unless you conduct a thorough archeological study of an area. Therefore, the whole area must be respected. As soon as you hit something, the diggings should stop and the area turned over to the National Museum, because archeologists are in a better position to know what to do next."

Quiñones had said that they would proceed with the project, but would still get clearance from the National Museum.

Edgardo Manda, general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), which has the authority on whether or not the city government of Manila could proceed with the project, said that this was the right thing to do.

"It is necessary that you get a clearance from the National Museum saying that the proposed area is outside the potential archeological site," Manda said in his letter to Quiñones last month, adding that "... areas of unique historic, archeological, geological and scientific interests are considered environmental critical areas."

The Manila Division of City Schools had earlier applied for a Certificate of Non-Coverage and a Clearance Exemption from the LLDA for the proposed building.

Guards fight off robbers in daring bank robbery

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TEN MEN wearing fatigues and carrying high-powered weapons stormed into an Allied Bank branch in Manila yesterday and engaged security guards in a daring shootout.

Supt. Antonio Arellano, station commander of Western Police District's station 9, said the suspects barged into the bank on P. Ocampo Street, Mabini, around 1:45 p.m.

Arellano said the suspects fired shots at the bank and the immediate vicinity with their M203 grenade launchers, M-14 and M-16 rifles, in an attempt to scare bystanders during the heist.

Bank employees added that security guard Salvador Chingco was injured when one of the suspects grabbed his M-16 rifle.

As they were about to take off with a duffel bag and another small bag suspected to contain cash, security guards stationed at the vacant lot beside the bank responded to the robbery when they heard the shots.

Using three armored cars, nine security guards tried to block the suspects' way, but were immediately prevented from doing so by the armed robbers.

"The robbers fired at the armored vehicles and even seriously injured a bystander," Arellano said.

Daniel Moss, 22, of Pasay City, sustained gunshot wounds in his thighs and legs and was brought to the Ospital ng Manila for treatment.

Spent shells littered the area, as a grenade launcher hit a nearby seafood restaurant. The bank also had its share of bullet holes, with four bullets from an M-16 rifle puncturing its glass façade.

The robbers escaped with a still undetermined amount of cash on a green Toyota Revo and an L-300 van headed toward Taft Avenue.

'Rob-slay suspect owed diplomat money'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ROBERTO Lumagui, the man who had confessed to staging a burglary that led to what he called the "accidental" death of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia Ramos, appeared to have called the shots when he and three others broke into the diplomat's house last month.

"I told them that they should not take anything away, because that was not part of the deal. That's why when they tried to take the bags of the victims, I said they should leave these behind," Lumagui said in Filipino.

Lumagui, with confessed accomplices Joel Ablay and Michael Cenil, reenacted the April 24 burglary at the Ramos house on 5552 Boyle Street, Barangay Palanan in Makati City yesterday, upon the request of state prosecution undertaking a preliminary investigation on the case.

In the reenactment, Lumagui prevailed as the leader of the early morning break-in as he was the one who planned and directed the burglary, said his accomplices. "He told us that once we got inside the room of Ramos, we should look for the money that was supposed to be our payment. He gave us P700 each later," said Ablay.

Prosecutors, however, were still undecided on whether Lumagui, a long-time handyman of Ramos, led the break-in on his own or under orders from Ester Ramos-Balley, the slain diplomat's eldest sister, as he had claimed as soon as he surrendered to authorities.

UPON the request of the state prosecutor, a reenactment of the robbery-slay incident that resulted in the death of career diplomat Alicia Ramos, was staged at the Ramos home in Palanan, Makati City yesterday.

REM ZAMORA

"We are still checking Lumagui's role in the robbery because we discovered that he had borrowed money from Alicia Ramos," said State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco. "We have receipts to show that Ramos had lent him more than P100,000 from November to December last year."

Along with Ablay, Cenil, and another suspect known only as Jun Maricar, who is still at large, Lumagui had been charged with murder and theft for the burglary and the diplomat's death, even while he claimed that Ramos suffocated accidentally. Balley was also charged. The justice department is currently pursuing a preliminary investigation of her possible involvement in the case.

Balley, who has been under the care of a psychiatrist at a hospital, appeared for the reenactment yesterday under the tight watch of five hospital staffers. Balley had only two words for the media: "No comment."

Leticia Ramos, the youngest of the Ramos siblings who had survived the attack and had reported the incident to police, however, seemed sure of what Lumagui had done. "I despise him. My sister was so kind to him, she gave him a source of income, lent him money, and he had to do this to her," she said.

Leticia agreed to trace the steps she took after she escaped from the attackers, from the house she shared with her sister, to St. Clare's Medical Center down the street where Balley was at the time of the incident, until the police detachment station a few meters away.

"Clearly, the participation of Leticia was as a victim. But I have a lot of questions for the clarificatory hearing tomorrow at the justice department," said Velasco.

The three men showed lawmen how they climbed the concrete fence of the Ramos house, on top of which was a steel extension that Lumagui himself had built.

The men said they were already inside the Ramos home around 2:30 a.m., and waited until 5:30 a.m. for someone to open the door. It was Alicia who unlocked the front door.

Alicia was hogtied, gagged, then left on the doorstep while the burglars scanned the interiors of the two-story house. Leticia was also gagged and hogtied when she appeared a few minutes later. Maricar and Ablay then carried the diplomat up to her room.

Ablay said Maricar and Lumagui took two cellular phones, while he took a camera inside a room. By 7 a.m., Lumagui rounded them up to leave the house together, said Ablay.

They hailed a cab that brought them to Guadalupe, Makati, where they spent the night. The next morning, he said, the group parted ways.

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Residents assured of relocation site

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AFTER his assurance of safety did nothing to ward off their fears, Rodriguez (Rizal Province) Mayor Pedro Cuerpo is now offering a relocation site to mountainside residents who feel threatened by landslides and floods.

Residents of Barangay San Rafael had feared that landslides and floods could place communities not only in Rodriguez but also in nearby towns and cities under water if rock-blasting activities in the area continued.

The local government is leveling part of the mountain to construct a transport terminal in the area. Part of the project involves relocating affected residents to a permanent site.

But Cuerpo assured them of a new site for their homes in Erap City, Barangay San Isidro.

The 2,500-hectare site of an aborted mass housing project for the poor could still accommodate 20,000 more families, he said in an earlier interview. Still, Cuerpo maintained there was no need for relocation because Barangay San Rafael was safe.

But this assurance did little to allay the fears of his people. "*Kinakabahan kami. Kapag umulan ng malakas, baka bumagsak ang mga bato at lupa,*" community leader Pastor Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Cruz said the rocks and mud, which would flow into the Marikina River when heavy rains fall, could create an artificial dam which could cause flash floods. A brief rainfall last week left streets flooded, something the community never experienced before, he added.

But Cuerpo, an engineer, said the fears were unfounded because there were no layers of soil, only rocks on top of the mountain.

Fireworks light up Makati tonight

MAKATI residents, as well as those from nearby cities, will get a sample of what's in store for the city's New Year's Eve Countdown when the city government presents its Foundation Day Fireworks tonight at the University of Makati (UMAK) grounds.

Starting at 8 p.m., the spectacular aerial fireworks show at UMAK, complemented by the simultaneous firing of mini-fireworks shows in the city's 33 barangays, will cap the month-long festivities that the city government had lined up to usher in the city's 335th Foundation Day.

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

DENNIS Miranda (left) of Magnolia Ice Cream drives past Paolo Orbeta of Welcoat during their game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Jewels foil Kornets; Magnolia prevails

By Jasmine W. Payo

MONTAÑA Pawnshop overcame Granny Goose's fourth-quarter surge to claim Game 1 of the semifinals, 64-58, in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Reed Juntilla led the Jewels' balanced offense with 13 points, while beefy Jon Dan Salvador shot 12 points and hauled down 10 rebounds.

The Kornets were quite a group to stop in the final quarter, but the Jewels leaned on their veteran shooters to pull off the win.

"Granny Goose is a very resilient team," said coach Robert

JEWELS/ A27

WHAT'S INSIDE

- GAB warns PBA, Eala: You're violating the law /A27
- Suns create ray of hope, bring series back home /A28

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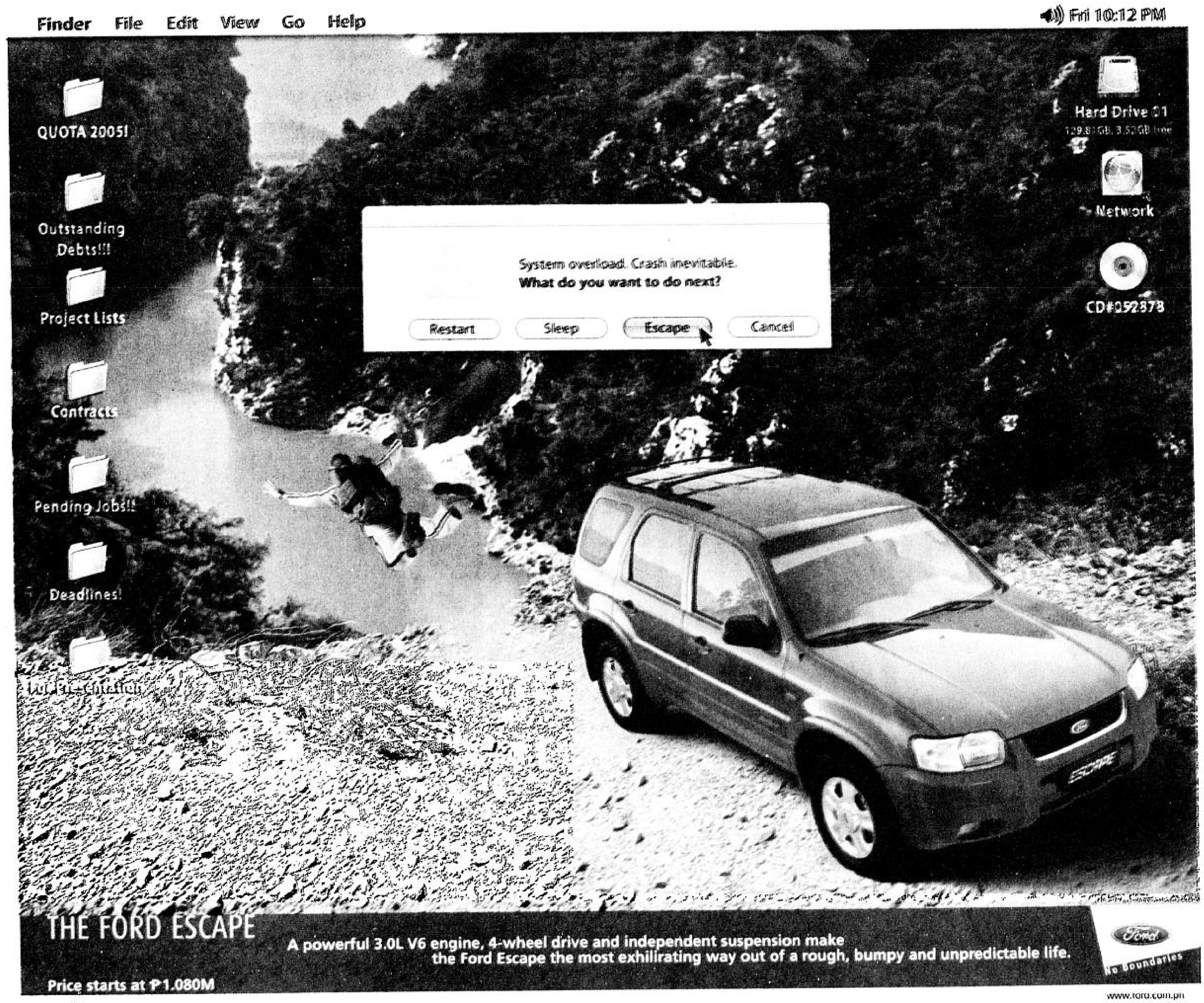

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Sprinters tipped to shine in long, flat trek to Vigan

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—From here to Vigan, the winner will most likely come from outside the Top 10. That's because the main players are expected to save their legs for the crucial climbing stages ahead.

The sixth and longest stage of the 10-stop Golden Tour will be disputed today over flat lands, where the sprinters from among the already tired pack naturally have an edge. The 206.6 km stage will pass through the coastal towns of La Union and Ilocos Sur.

But as far as two-time champion Renato Dolosa is concerned, the stage only presents an opportunity for the riders who are not expected to figure prominently in the title race to climb a few rungs in the standings.

Dolosa expects the leaders to mark one another and not do any foolish maneuvers.

"Things will begin to get clearer in the mountains," said Dolosa in Filipino. "And the climbers are the ones who have the edge."

Seeing things from the point of view of a spectator for the first time in 14 Tours, Dolosa—who now coaches the Guerrero Brandy riders—quickly rattled off five names he expects to rise on the leaderboard once the bikathon reaches Baguio City.

They are overall leader and 1998 champ Warren Davadilla, second-running and last year's champion Rhyan Tanguilig, top RP mountain biker and Stage 5 winner Frederick Feliciano (sixth), 2003 titlist Arnel Quirimit (7th) and Stage 4 winner Lito Atilano (10th).

Of the five, Dolosa said Davadilla of Colt 45 is in the best shape considering the training he has undergone for the Southeast Asian Games here in November. "He's still peaking, which is good at this stage of the Tour," Dolosa said.

PLDT skipper Tanguilig, two minutes and 25 seconds behind Davadilla, is the strongest contender, according to the 39-year-old Dolosa. But he also expressed concern that Davadilla's international stints this year may have disrupted his level of conditioning.

Race director and fellow former champion Paquito Rivas shared Dolosa's view.

Dolosa also said Feliciano (3:34 off the pace) has the strength but still needs to prove his consistency, and Quirimit, 4:06 behind, didn't train hard enough for this Tour.

Rivas, for his part, predicted that whoever takes the Vigan-Baguio 7th Stage on Thursday will be 80 percent sure of taking the crown.

"If Warren can hold on to it, he's almost sure of winning," he said.

Last year's result in the stage runs counter to Rivas' foresight. Enrique Domingo won the same stage but lost the yellow jersey after Tanguilig ruled the Baguio-to-Baguio stage.

"It's because Domingo doesn't have climbing skills," countered Rivas.

That can't be said of Davadilla, Tanguilig, Feliciano, Atilano and Quirimit.

While Quirimit, who surrendered the crown as early as the fourth stage last year due to the flu, claimed that he's in shape, the Pozzorubio, Pangasinan former champ obviously gained extra pounds and also lost training time because of a three-week European vacation he had just before the Tour.

Quirimit said the uncertainty of this year's Tour made him spend a week in Italy and two weeks in Spain with relatives. But he's shown fine form, climbing from 23rd in the first stage from Marikina to Lucena to seventh overall.

The cyclists took a breather yesterday, loosening their limbs from the exhaustion of the past five stages. Most of them, however, still hit the road, biking between 10 and 20 kms so their body wouldn't shut down.

They spent the rest of the afternoon singing and shooting pools in the seaside quarters where they were all billeted. Last Monday, they received a warm welcome from Mayor Hernani Braganza of Alaminos City, who also gave recognition to 22 champions from Pangasinan in the Tour.

Metro Drug, with Atilano at the helm, leads the team standings, holding a lead of four minutes and 51 seconds over Colt 45, while Dolosa's team is steady and solid in third place, 5:30 off the pace. Vat Riders, led by Feliciano, is fourth (5:59) followed by Tourism in fifth (6:17).

WARREN Davadilla (left) and chief mechanic Dante Valdez tinker with the overall leader's bike in Alaminos, Pangasinan, yesterday, the Tour's rest day. BOY CABRIDO

All or nothing for Colt 45, Guerrero bets

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—With their weary legs rested, Colt 45 and Guerrero Brandy's Road Warriors pour it all out starting today as the final half of the Tanduay presents… Golden Tour 50@'05 hits the road from here to historic Vigan.

Running second and third, respectively, behind Metro Drug, sister teams Colt 45 and the Road Warriors hope to make up some ground in the tour's longest stage, a 225-km trek to the old and charming city in Ilocos Sur.

Guerrero cannot afford to lose more time to the pace-setters in the team event, with the punishing Baguio stages up tomorrow.

"*Yu'ng* Baguio to Baguio (eighth) lap *pa rin ang* critical," said Guerrero coach Renato Dolosa. "*Pero dapat papuntang Vigan maka-kain kami ng oras sa mga nauuna.*"

After five stages and 589.7 kms, Metro Drug holds a 4:51.937-second lead over Colt 45, with the Road Warriors 5:30.559 seconds adrift in the team competition of the event that stakes P700,000 to the champion.

From Vigan, the entourage winds its way to the picturesque City of Pines tomorrow before the 185-km "killer stage" on Friday that starts and ends in Burnham Park.

OVERALL STANDINGS

TANGUILIG

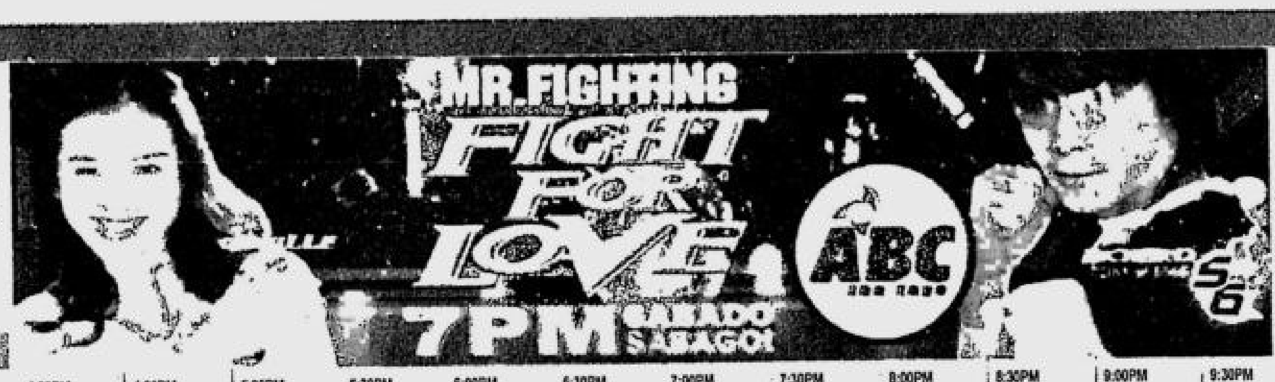
OVERALL INDIVIDUAL

1. W. Davadilla, Colt 45, 14 hours 54 minutes 32 seconds
2. R. Tanguilig, PLDT, 2 minutes 25 seconds behind
3. R. Navarro, Custom, 2:50 mins
4. F. Alagano, Metro Drug, 3:17 mins
5. A. Benosa, Touch Mobile, 3:30 mins
6. E. Feliciano, VAT Riders, 3:34 mins
7. A. Quirimit, Tourism, 4:06 mins
8. S. Barnachea, Touch Mobile, 5:11
9. B. Lopez Jr., Metro Drug, 5:33
10. L. Atilano, Metro Drug, 5:37
11. E. Obosa, Go 21, 5:53
12. S. Diamsay, Tourism, 6:21
13. M. McQuin Aleonar, VAT Riders, 6:39
14. R. Sambrano, Guerrero Brandy, 6:44
15. V. Muena, Guerrero Brandy, 7:06
16. D. Perez, Colt 45, 7:13
17. F. Quinones, Custom, 7:50
18. O. Rendole, Tourism, 8:23
19. D. Ganigan, Guerrero Brandy, 8:24
20. B. Ravina, Go 21, 8:33
21. M. Primero, Custom, 8:49
22. O. Villanueva, VAT Riders, 9:01 mins
23. R. Hualda, Tourism, 9:28
24. D. Hererra, Tourism, 9:42
25. J. Dasalla, Colt 45, 10:06

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Metro Drug, 55 hours 25 minutes 33.780 seconds
2. Colt 45, 4 minutes 51.937 seconds behind
3. Guerrero Brandy, 5:30.559 mins
4. VAT Riders, 5:59.772 mins
5. Tourism, 6:17.891 mins
6. Custom, 13:42.222 mins
7. Touch Mobile, 14:34.940 mins
8. Go 21, 18:44.360 mins
9. PLDT, 20:05.815 mins

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10 PM)	Meteor Garden Full Edition		TV Patrol World		Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Memories Of Bali	Qpids	Stained Glass	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol		Look Who's Talking	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Flame Of Recca	Full House		24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		All About Eve	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	Tough Enough	7 Days		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Sagot Natin Kasama Si Joey Luna		Road Trip
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		On Air Tambayan		Direk	Junior Reyes Report	Bestfriends	Celebrity Single	Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
JackTV	Banzai	X-Men	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Chapelle's Show	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Super Gals	My MYX	Batman Beyond	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	C.S.I.			Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		The Good Life With Cory Quirino
AXN		The Amazing Race 6		The World's Most Extreme Races		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Pensacola (Season III)		Boomtown		Maximum Exposure (Season I)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: NY (Season I)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		American Idol		Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	American Idol		Chronicles: News From The Edge				Friends	American Idol
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Taboo		Dangerous Jobs		Egypt Detectives, Mystery of The Pharaoh's Stone	Africa From The Ground Up	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Showreel Asia		Deep Jungle	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		You're Invited	Life & Style		Style Star	Nigella Bites II	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO	Webs			The Cat's Meow				Soapdish (5:50 PM)			Kart Racer			The Matrix Reloaded				Twister (11:15PM)	
Star Movies				Creature (3:55 PM)			The Banger Sisters			The Touch (7:10 PM)				Alien 3				Found (10:55PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Codename: Kids Next Door	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN		World Tenpin Masters '05		Marshall's World Skating Chall.			World Snooker Trick Shot Masters '04		NBA Anthology Down Low Life in the D-League	Sportscenter Asia	World Snooker Tour The Masters '05						Sportscenter Asia		
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax			The Incredible Mr. Limpet (3:45 PM)				Elmore Leonard's Gold Coast				The Parole Officer			Stealing Candy			The Sum Of All Fears		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Missing		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	Five Days To Midnight		Missing		Ronnie And Julie			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: FB Eye (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery						Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Hour Asia	
Sports Plus								French Open '05 Day10 C/final											

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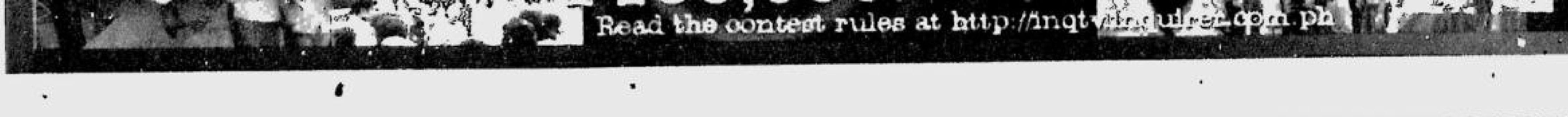

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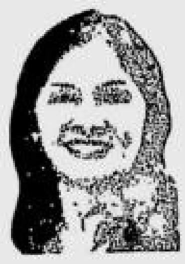
Portmasters' fall raises eyebrows

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

FORMER PBA commissioner Leo Prieto, one of the 12 personalities installed to the PBA Hall of Fame, was missed during the awards rites of the league's grand 30th anniversary celebration at the Araneta Coliseum last Saturday.

In the past, although aided by a cane and a nurse, Leo would drop by the different venues to watch the games every now and then. However, for the past months now, I have not seen him around.

PBA sources said the PBA's first commissioner couldn't come to the Big Dome to accept his Hall-of-Fame trophy because his health condition had become very delicate.

Leo's granddaughter, the beautiful Roxanne Prieto, received the trophy on his behalf. Roxanne was escorted by beau Danny Seigle of San Miguel, who was nattily garbed in a business suit.

* * *

Since the Saturday celebration, fans have been calling in and texting to ask various questions like, for example, why Greats player-coach Sonny Jaworski did not see action, or what made Legends' Atoy Co leave the bench in the first quarter to change into his civvies.

I've brushed aside malicious innuendoes as to why the Big J inhibited himself from playing, although I'm sure this will again terribly disappoint his fans. Atoy had to quit early due to a pulled muscle.

The fans had a great time reminiscing last Saturday, my pal Tessa Jazmines, a retired sports scribe turned UP vice chancellor, and I included. Even the refs who officiated the game were retro. Remember Bay Ledesma and Tom Urbano, whom they jokingly call "Tenga," because of his floppy ears. The affair drove home a point: time has passed without us noticing. I was surprised to see the late Joe Cantada's son Porky now a grown man. Most of the players' kids who used to just run around the coliseum are now adults. Time has really flown.

The two jokers named Ariel and Maverick who emceed the "time-out" features claiming they knew the PBA very well, called Jimmy Noblezada Jimmy Nobleza and referred to round robin as "round ruby."

* * *

A cloud of suspicion hovers over some key players of Harbour Centre whose performance in the ongoing PBL Unity Cup mysteriously plummeted following a hot, hot start where the Portmasters soared all the way to the top to challenge defending champion Montaña Pawnshop withy whom it was tied for first place, for the first semifinal berth.

After the loss to Montaña, it was downhill all the way. Harbour was beaten by Welcoat in the battle for the outright semis slot, then by Granny Goose in the quarterfinals, where the Portmasters had the twice to beat advantage.

"We had the twice-to-beat advantage but we were beaten twice straight," said a distraught member of the coaching staff.

Team owner Mikee Romero, who cut short his US vacation to catch the crucial rounds of the tournament, offered fabulous incentives like a month's bonus and P500 for every extra hustle or effort exerted, like an interception, a block or a dive for the ball.

It didn't work. The team headed for what could've been a Cinderella finish crumbled.

A despondent Mikee couldn't understand why.

"Maybe it's a lesson to learn," he said.

* * *

San Miguel Corp. president and CEO Ramon S. Ang made a rare public appearance at the Araneta Coliseum on opening day of the 16th Fiba-Asia Champions Cup.

Garbed in black T-shirt and black pants, the RP team manager sat on the nationals' bench from start to finish of the game against India which we won by a blowout, 81-49.

RSA said he enjoyed watching the game. Even if it was entirely lopsided.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Spotted at a basement function room of the Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Hotel yesterday morning were RP representative to the IOC Frank Elizalde, POC officials Buddy Andrada, Steve Hontiveros, Go Teng Kok, lawyer Ding Tanjuatco and former BAP/ABC secretary general Moying Martelino. Why the POC scheduled a meeting miles away from their office might have something to do with the fact that the Fiba-Asia officials are booked at the Edsa Shangrila... the night before, we were at the coffee shop of the same hotel with former POC president Cristy Ramos who certainly look more appealing and feminine with her long hairdo. Cristy is a member of two Fiba-Asia committees... A senate inquiry into the POC-BAP controversy is on the horizon. Let's hope the problem is resolved soon, to prevent this... PBA games resume on June 8 after the Fiba-Asia Champions Cup.

TAIWAN CAGING

Spring-Laguna bows in double OT

HWALIN, Taiwan—All-Filipino Spring Cooking Oil-Laguna fell in double overtime to import-laced Taiwanese club Jeoutai, 111-117, Saturday and failed to make it to the finals of the Kwan Hu Invitational Cup basketball tournament here.

"It was a heartbreaking loss for us," said coaches Vic Sanchez and Boysie Zamar after the game. "But the boys have nothing to be ashamed of. They gave their best and fought fiercely all the way."

NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, co-owner of Spring-Laguna together with Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, also praised the Filipinos, who badly missed the services of import Geremy Robinson, who opted to play for Qatar in the Fiba-Asia Champion's Cup.

After missing the finals, the Filipinos dropped a 99-100 decision to Sina Lions in the consolation match Sunday.

Nino "KG" Canaleta and Marlon Kalaw stood their ground against the Taiwanese, who were beefed up by Europeans Nikota (6-11) and Darko (6-7) in the match which went into overtime on a triple by Canaleta in the dying seconds, 90-90.

The Filipinos had a chance to win in regulation, but they flubbed three of five free throws. In the first extra period, Canaleta,. Dondon Villamin and Robin Mendoza sparked a 9-2 finish to force another extension, 102-102.

Jeoutai's Jin Jay exploded for nine of his 14 point in the second overtime to seal the victory after Canaleta, Samigue Eman and Mel Latoreno had fouled out.

Japan's Aisin Swanhorses, reinforced by four Americans, eventually took the title at the expense of Taiwan Beer, which had previously lost to Spring-Laguna, 85-91.

Eight teams from Japan, Korea, Philippines and Taiwan competed in the five-day cagefest.

The scores:

JEOUTAI 117—Li Wen 27, Nikota 19, Shi 19, Ho Chen 18, Ton Long 15, Jin Jay 14, Darko 3, Tim 2, CG Jay 2, Chin Pong 0.

SPRING-LAGUNA 111—M. Reyes 19, Mendoza 17, Villamin 15, Kalaw 14, Eman 11, Canaleta 11, Latoreno 10, Corbin 7, Melencio 5, R. Reyes 2, Manuel 0.

Quarters: 23-17, 48-43, 72-64, 90-90; 102-102 (1st OT), 117-111 (2nd OT)

GAB warns league, Eala: You're violating the law

By Francis Ochoa

THE GAMES and Amusements Board yesterday sent a stern warning to the PBA commissioner's office: You're violating the law.

The reply from commissioner Noli Eala came quick: No we're not.

In another budding off-court basketball battle, the GAB and the PBA commissioner's office—in statements sent to media offices—laid the foundation of a legal standoff when they came up with two different interpretations of a presidential decree.

The GAB accused Eala and the employees of his office of violating Presidential Decree 871, which, in part, requires the PBA to have all its employees licensed by the GAB and for all PBA rules and amendments made after Jan. 12, 1988, to be submitted to the regulatory agency before implementation.

The second rule is a ticklish issue because it provides member teams at odds with decisions churned out by the commissioner's office, a long-time autonomous body, a new venue to pursue its grievances.

But Buhain allayed fears that the GAB plans to meddle into the league's governance.

"We're not out to control the league," Buhain told the INQUIRER. "We're just here as a regulatory body and we want to implement the laws that we are asked to implement.

In its statement, however, the league brought up a GAB memorandum, dated March 9, 2005, where the agency only asked PBA governors and alternate governors who concurrently act as team managers or assistant team managers and all players and officials who sit on the team bench to secure the necessary licenses.

"This is a case of misunderstanding and differences of interpretation of PD 871," said Eala.

"The PBA has complied with the requirements of the law and we have not violated GAB rules. We are willing to comply for as long as it is required by law."

EALA: Different interpretations

BUHAIN: We're here to implement the law

With regards to the GAB's claim that the league has failed to submit board resolutions, Eala said: "We have submitted all required board resolutions dating from 1995 to the present to the GAB as early as March 16, 2005."

Buhain said he has yet to formally receive the said documents.

Buhain and commissioners Angel P. Bautista and Alex A. Paglumotan signed the letter which also warned sanctions against the PBA if it continued to operate without complying with the law.

The GAB deadline for the PBA to secure the necessary licenses, including a promoter's license for the league and to submit its amended rules, lapsed on May 26.

Buhain, Bautista and Paglumotan said the GAB will no longer deal with Eala because he is not licensed by the GAB.

According to the league statement, no other PBA commissioner was asked to apply for a GAB license, but Buhain said that was beside the point.

"The law still requires him to be licensed," the GAB chief said.

"Regardless of whether historically, past commissioners were not asked to be licensed, that law says they should have been and I am simply here to implement the law."

Jewels foil Kornets . . .

From page A25

Sison, after the Open champions moved a win away from advancing to the finals.

In the second game, Magnolia Ice Cream evened its own semifinal series after drubbing Welcoat Paints, 75-62.

The Wizards extended their winning streak to six behind Fil-Am phenomenon Kelly Williams, who had 19 points and 15 rebounds.

The defending champions also limited Welcoat's formidable big men—Anthony Washington, Marvin Ortiguerra, Leo Najorda and Jay-R Reyes—to a combined 12 points.

In the new semifinal format, top seeds Montaña and Welcoat earned one-game incentives in the best-of-five series, thus, needing only to win twice. Magnolia and Granny Goose, meanwhile, need three wins to advance to the finals.

The Jewels led by as many as 19 points in the third quarter, 51-32, but the Kornets slightly narrowed the gap to 53-39 by the end of the period.

The Kornets, though, surprisingly picked up their offense and came to within 53-49 with less than six minutes remaining.

Toti Almeda's back-to-back baskets quickly knotted the contest, 53-53, at the 5:07 mark.

The Kornets' aggressiveness visibly alarmed the Jewels, who responded with seven unanswered points to pull away, 60-53.

Led by Arwind Santos, the Wizards ripped the game wide open in the second half, leading by as many as 24 points, 58-34, early in the fourth.

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 64—Juntilla 13, Salvador 12, Compton 12, Mercado 8, Capus 6, Vergara 5, Baguion 4, Dela Cuesta 4, Espiritu 0, Guerrero 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 58—Quiñahan 15, Almeda 8, Alfad 7, Guerrero 6, Cruz 4, Grijaldo 4, Latonio 3, Ferrer 3, Saladaga 2, Manalo 2, Cervantes 2, Concha 2, Santos 0, Lanete 0, David 0.

Quarters: 17-21, 40-30, 53-39, 64-58.

Second Game

MAGNOLIA 75—Williams 19, Santos 11, Catli 9, Miranda 7, Yabut 5, Rañeses 4, Isip 4, Chan 4, Caceres 4, Garcia 4, Misolas 2, Rizada 2, Jones 0, Co 0, Cutler 0.

WELCOAT 62—Sta. Maria 16, Guevarra 10, Tangkay 8, Coching 7, Ortiguerra 7, Orbeta 4, Junio 3, Najorda 2, Reyes 2, Estrada 2, Washington 1, Gamboa 0, Dy 0, Tan 0, Sagad 0.

Quarters: 14-7, 30-23, 48-31, 75-62.

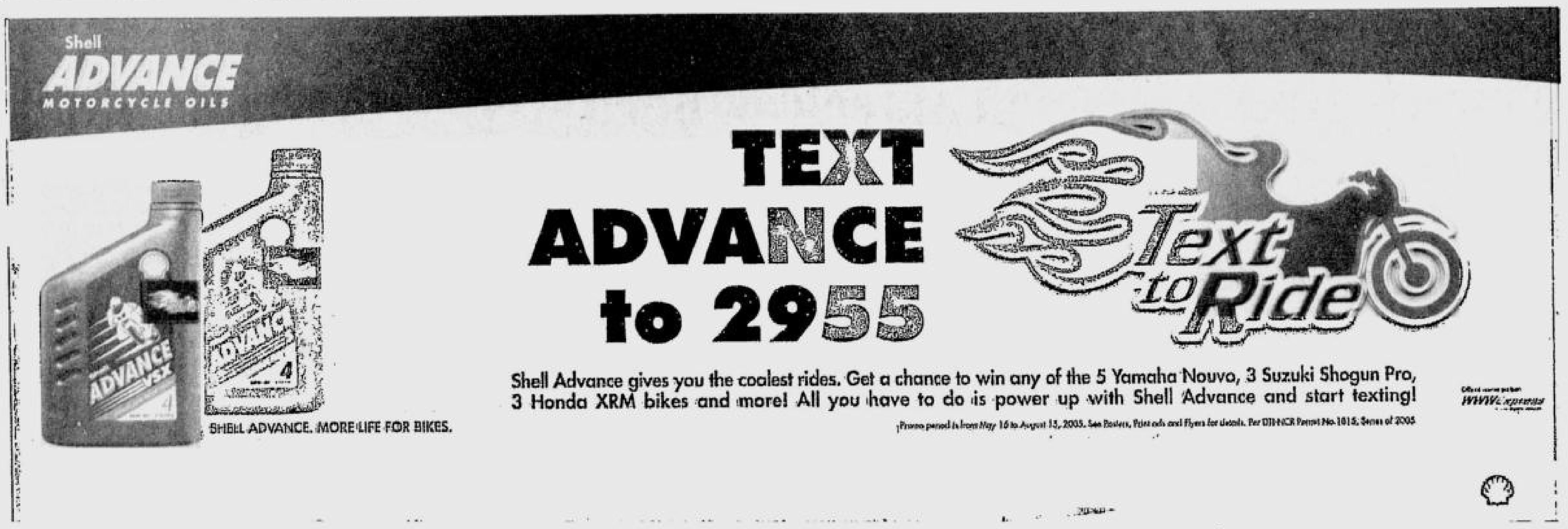
NBC tilt: Cavite tests Valencia

NORTHERN division campaigner Cavite seeks its third win in five games against Southern division team Valencia Golden Harvest today in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Tagaytay Sports Complex in Tagaytay City.

The Far Eastern Insurance-backed Caviteños of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi are slightly favored over the winless Valencia cagers of Mayor Jose Galario Jr. in the 3 p.m. contest.

The Insurers leveled their record at 2-2 by routing the Iligan Crusaders, 94-81, last week after scoring a stuning victory over Vice Mayor and actor/tv host Anjo Yllana's Parañaque Jets.

Playmaker Stephen Mopera is expected to lead Cavite in the game backed by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Philtranco, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Sunbolt, Nature's Spring, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Prime Channel, Ping Ping Lechon, Rough Rider Jeans, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.



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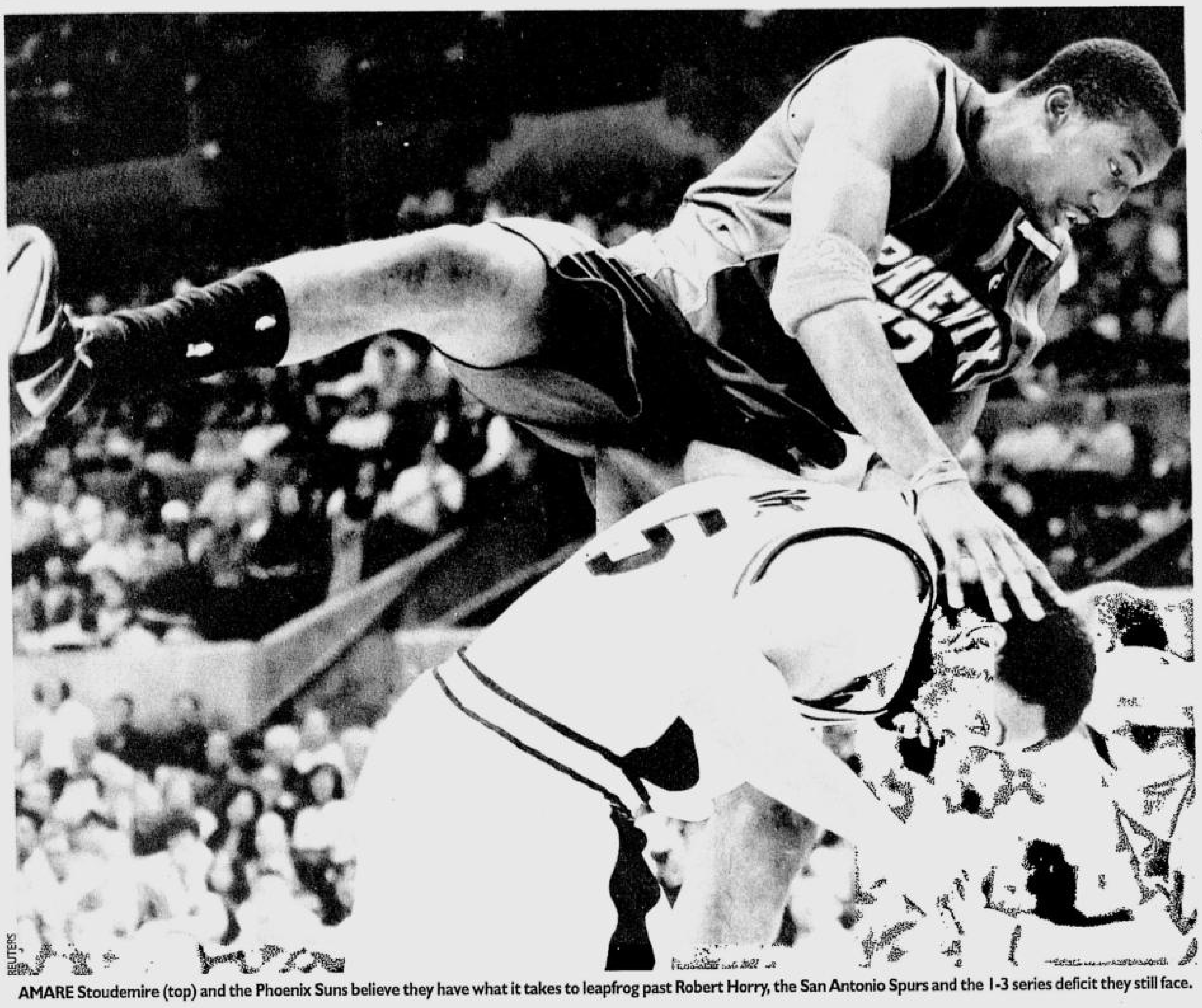

REUTERS

AMARE Stoudemire (top) and the Phoenix Suns believe they have what it takes to leapfrog past Robert Horry, the San Antonio Spurs and the 1-3 series deficit they still face.

Suns create ray of hope, bring series back home

SAN ANTONIO—Even if the Phoenix Suns don't come all the way back and make the NBA Finals, they're guaranteed of having at least one good memory from the Western Conference finals.

Finally getting out on the fast break and doing a better job on defense, the Suns showed a never-quit spirit from start to finish—especially the finish—to beat the San Antonio Spurs, 111-106, Monday night and prevent being swept in four games.

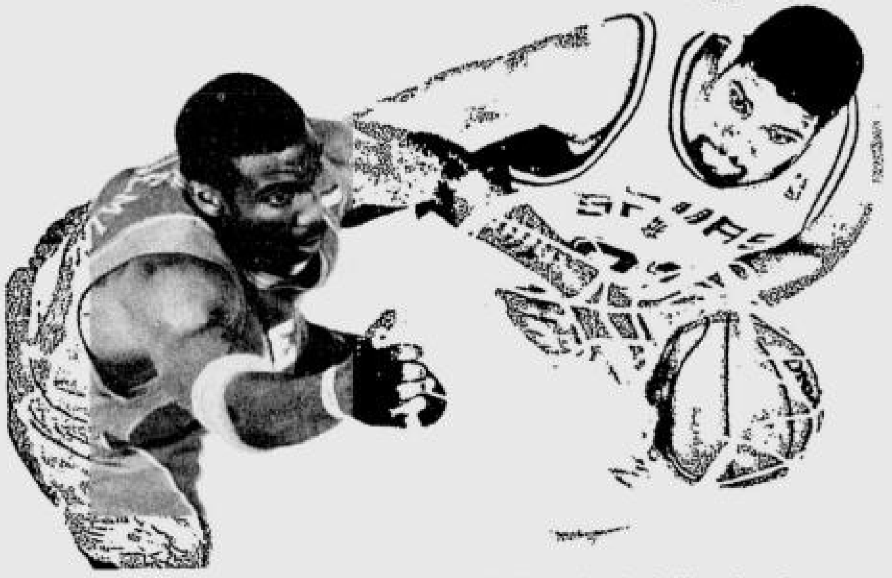
Amare Stoudemire was far better than his statistics (31 points, five rebounds) showed, making a series of big plays down the stretch. He held Tim Duncan to just 15 points, only four in the second half, and leaped above the rim to block his dunk attempt with 36 seconds left that would have brought San Antonio within one point.

"Unbelievable," Phoenix guard Steve Nash said. "Even as a teammate, you were just in awe. He was all over the place. He made spectacular plays."

Phoenix went up by 12 points, its biggest lead of the series, midway through the third quarter and never gave it up, despite the Spurs doing their best to pull off their third fourth-quarter comeback of the series. San Antonio made it 102-101 on a 3-pointer by Robert Horry and 107-106 on a 3 by Bruce Bowen with 1:03 left but the Suns refused to go down.

The victory ended Phoenix's longest losing streak since dropping six straight in January and, more importantly, sends them home for Game 5 of the series Wednesday night rather than going home to start their offseason.

"I think we can go home and win another one," Phoenix guard Joe Johnson said.


PHOENIX Suns center Amare Stoudemire (left) dunks the ball against San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan in the Western Conference Finals. REUTERS

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni maintained for two days that his club just needed to iron out some kinks to get past the Spurs and he proved to be right.

They finally led after one quarter, 26-23, something they hadn't done in nine games, since the opener of the last round. They got 26 points from their open-court game, saw Shawn Marion return to form and made the big plays in the closing minutes.

Nash had 17 points and 12 assists, more normal numbers for the MVP after having just three assists last game, the only one that wasn't decided in the closing minutes. Joe Johnson scored 26 points on 10-of-15 shooting, Quentin Richardson scored 14 and Marion had 11, including several in transition and a 3-pointer that capped a 15-2 run in third quarter.

Stoudemire had his fewest points against the Spurs all season and had just the five rebounds, none in the first half. But he got the final rebound that mattered, grabbing a miss by Johnson away from Manu Ginobili in the final seconds, preventing the Spurs from getting the ball back down by three.

Instead, Nash ended up getting fouled and made two freethrows with 6.2 seconds left to seal the victory, Phoenix's first in six games this season with San Antonio that Duncan played.

San Antonio lost for the first time since Game 4 of the last round, ending a five-game winning streak. The Spurs lost at home for only the sixth time in 49 games, and now must wait at least two more days before clinching a trip back to the NBA Finals.

"We are sad. We are angry," said Ginobili, who led San Antonio with 28 points. "But this series continues and we are in great shape. The goal is to go to the Finals, not to sweep them."

Ginobili got many of his points on dazzling layups, such as two that featured behind-the-back dribbles. He also had seven assists.

Duncan was 6-of-12 and played so passively at times that coach Gregg Popovich was yelling at him to be tougher during a fourth-quarter timeout. He responded to that rebuke with a dunk.

Duncan, who also had 16 rebounds, may have been taken out of his game by returning to his freethrow woes. After going 15-of-15 last game, and being 33-of-36 for the series, he was 3-of-12. He even missed the rim entirely in the fourth quarter, drawing a loud gasp from the home crowd.

"Just a tough night all around—from the field, from the line, just everything," Duncan said.

Bowen and Horry each scored 15 points, while Tony Parker had 13, eight during a first-quarter frenzy, five assists and six turnovers.

Although the Suns were good early, the Spurs showed how badly they wanted to end the series by recovering quickly. They had first-half runs of 13-3 and 12-2 to erase early Phoenix leads, then used a rally by Ginobili and Horry to take a seven-point halftime lead.

But the Suns opened the third with a 12-4 run. After the Spurs got back within one, Phoenix used its final spurt and ended up making 15 of 20 shots in the third quarter. *AP*

LA REUNION?

Jackson set up meeting with Bryant

LOS ANGELES—Former Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson is trying to set up a meeting with Kobe Bryant early next month and could decide about a possible return before the National Basketball Association Finals.

The Los Angeles Daily News, citing unnamed sources, reported Monday that the nine-time NBA champion coach's meeting with star guard Bryant is "critical" to Jackson's chances of returning to the club.

Lakers owner Jerry Buss said Bryant would be consulted but not part of the decision-making process of hiring a new coach. Jackson might also return to the Lakers in an executive capacity instead of as a coach, the newspaper reported.

Jackson ripped Bryant in a book following the Lakers' failed title bid last season, in which they lost to Detroit in the finals.

Whether Bryant is wil to play for Jackson likely be a huge facto the coaching choice.

A deal worth $10 lion a season is report what Jackson is seekin

Jackson departed superstar center Sh uille O'Neal was trade Miami in the aftermat that loss. Bryant guid shell of the former, g team through a wo season in which t failed to reach the p offs.

Jeanie Buss, daug of the Lakers' owne well as the club's busi operations vice presid is Jackson's long-t girlfriend and she dicted Jackson w coach in the NBA n season.

"I don't know wh he's going to end up. he hasn't ruled anyth out, so that makes think that he will be n ing a decision so than later," she said.

Lebron gets

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Mike Brown, who has spent the past two years as an Indiana Pacers assistant coach, reportedly has been hired as the next coach of the National Basketball Association's Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Indianapolis Star, Akron Beacon-Journal and Cleveland's Plain Dealer all cited unnamed sources in reporting that the 35-year-old defensive specialist will be the next man to guide the fate of star LeBron James.

Despite spectacular moves by the gifted second-year playmaker, the Cavalier the NBA playo breaker to New nal Eastern Con

The coaching critical to keepi ber of the Cava plore free-agent other season.

Brown, back Rick Carlisle, w ond-youngest c to New Jersey's He has spent 1 league and last viewed for co

Schumacher

FRANKFURT, Germany—Michael Schumacher dismissed speculation that he may retire at the end of the Formula One season, claiming he can still win races this year.

"I am not thinking of retiring," Schumacher told Tuesday's edition of German newspaper Bild. "I've said that I'd retire when I can no longer hold my own against the younger drivers—I think I can still do that very well."

The seven-tim on hasn't won a tempts this sea dominating the 13 wins.

After finishin European Grand gring, German best finish of the second place he season-opener i

"I'm a realist a my chances bet

Cold receptio

MANCHESTER, England—When Kostya Tszyu puts his International Boxing Federation (IBF) light-welterweight title on the line against local hero Ricky Hatton here in the early hours of Sunday morning, he can count on being the most unpopular man at the Manchester Evening News (MEN) Arena.

Australia-based Tszyu may be one of the world's best pound-for-pound boxers after first winning this world title ten years ago but, as he bids for a fifth defense in his second stint as cha to have few frie capacity venue

But it will tak boos to put of champion.

Tszyu, who w the Russian tow Ural Mountains, rope for the first ing from the old the world amate in Sydney in 200

Having beaten can Julio Cesar C

Patrick gives racing an American hero

INDIANAPOLIS—Danica Patrick lived up to the hype. Now, what does she do for an encore?

Patrick stole the show at the Indianapolis 500, giving the guys a real run for their money and nearly grabbing the biggest purse in auto racing before finishing fourth.

The rookie thrilled the 300,000 or so spectators at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway who spent much of the final 30 laps on their feet screaming and cheering as she tried to pull off the biggest upset in 89 years of Indy history.

Dan Wheldon of England got to celebrate in Victory Lane and will pocket at least $1.5 million, but Patrick gave Americans a new hero to follow in a sport dominated in recent years by foreign drivers.

After being the biggest surprise of the month—turning some of the fastest speeds in practice and qualifying fourth—the 23-year-old Patrick was almost good enough to take the checkered flag Sunday. She led three times for 19 laps and overcame a stalled engine in the pits and a crash on the track before a nearly empty fuel tank cost her this first shot at immortality.

So much for the critics who said the tiny woman, who had never raced for more than 300 miles, would fade at the end of the long Indy event.

She did make those rookie mistakes, but Patrick, named Rookie of the Year, wasn't so much upset by that as by the fact they put her back in the pack.

She got the lead late in the race by gambling on a long fuel run and staying on track when the other leaders pitted. And it looked like it was all over for Patrick when Wheldon passed her for the lead on lap 186.

But, with the crowd in a frenzy, she zoomed back on top on a restart on lap 190 and began to pull away—until she was ordered to slow to conserve fuel.

Patrick's list of Indy firsts is impressive: Best start by a woman; first woman to lead a lap; best finish by a woman.

It would have been hard for her to picture all of this happening a year ago.

Patrick, then racing in the developmental Toyota Atlantic Series, accompanied team co-owner Bobby Rahal to Indianapolis to spark a little publicity for her sponsors. She appeared momentarily startled when Rahal unexpectedly announced during a Speedway news conference that the team co-owned by television talk show host David Letterman would put her in a car for this year's Indy 500.

Typical of Patrick, she recovered quickly, her black eyes blazing with excitement.

"Cool!" she said, adding, "I'll be ready." *AP*

REUTERS

PATRICK leaves people waiting for an encore.

Jones ey

MILAN, Italy—Marion Jone improve her time when she 100 meters on Wednesday at Prix Regione Lombardia.

Jones clocked a modest 11 on Sunday at the FBK Games Netherlands, finishing second Sturrup in her European de son. Her personal best is 10.6

"I'll be faster than yeste said Monday. "I need to win my confidence. It's what I nee

Jones, a three-time Oly medalist, is trying to regain h confidence after being linked Area Laboratory Co Op scandal in the United States. S er failed a doping test and de ing performance-enhancing s

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In a crumbling stadium, a fight is frozen in memory

KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of Congo—The stadium is now just a decaying bowl of concrete. Litter blows in the aisles, squatters live in the structure's dark bowels, and young men run around the dirt track in shoes, flip-flops, or in their bare feet.

But this is where Muhammad Ali fought George Foreman in 1974 in front of 60,000 roaring spectators—the famous "Rumble in the Jungle"—and every afternoon aging Congolese men come here, sit on a bench, swap stories, and pay homage to the history of this place. To them, this is a shrine to boxing.

For these men, several of whom are old boxers themselves, the Ali-Foreman fight is frozen in memory. They remember the camera lights flashing. They can still feel the tension. They can recall each round.

"I was sitting right next to the ring," said Felix Mputu, 62, a former lightweight boxer who was on his country's 1968 Olympic team—but never boxed in the event because the team arrived too late for the Mexico City games.

"And like all the Congolese, I was supporting Muhammad Ali. He may not have been the strongest man, but he was a grand sportsman, and we loved him for that," Mputu said.

Play by play

As he spoke, other former Congolese boxers stood by him, nodding at his words. Then Mputu slipped into a play-by-play of the fight, throwing lefts and rights into the air in mimicry, drawing smiles from those around him.

"From rounds one to three, George Foreman really was giving Ali a hard time, kept hitting him hard to the body," Mputu said. "But the fourth and fifth rounds, Foreman and Ali evened out some. Foreman was tiring.

"In the sixth round, Muhammad Ali started making his marks, he started beating George Foreman, and the crowd started to sing out in Lingala in the seventh round, 'Ali Buma Ye,' or Ali-beat him. In the eighth, at the very beginning, Ali gave a direct hit to Foreman with his left hand, Foreman was dangling, Ali gave him another right, and Foreman went down."

The old boxer sighed with pleasure.

At the time of the fight, the country was called Zaire, and dictator Mobuto Sese Seko hoped that the much-hyped outdoor event in the heart of Africa would showcase his country as a place ripe for outside investment.

Deterioration

Such dreams never materialized, and the country, like the stadium, tumbled into a state of slow deterioration that continues to this day. Corruption pervades everything, and public works projects are distant memories.

The 20th of May Stadium, which was built several years before the fight, sits in the middle of a neighborhood of shacks a few miles from the center of Kinshasa and the Congo River.

The seats rise steeply above a rutted soccer field, which is framed by a dirt track. The frame of a billboard that once held a portrait of Mobuto is still atop one side of the stadium, but it is a frame of just air now.

Loungers sit in the stands to pass the hours, but outside the stadium, young men and women play vigorous games of basketball on cracked pavement.

Old boxers

Inside, a group of young people gathered around the old boxers.

Tshibanda Gudex, 52, gave some instructions to them, and then he picked up worn-out, child-sized boxing gloves for 12-year-old Melkei Mupase.

"This is the Congo Boxing Development club," Gudex said. "And I'm the coach."

He said he has 24 boys and 18 girls in the club and they meet six afternoons a week to practice. "But it's tough," he said, "when you have so little equipment."

The club is down to its last three sets of boxing gloves. They have no headgear.

Around him several young boys began to shadowbox, their hands flashing in the golden light of the late-afternoon sun.

"It's very important to us that we practice here, in this stadium," Gudex said. "We explain to them about the 1974 fight so they can take some pride in this place, and use those boxers, Ali and Foreman, as their models."

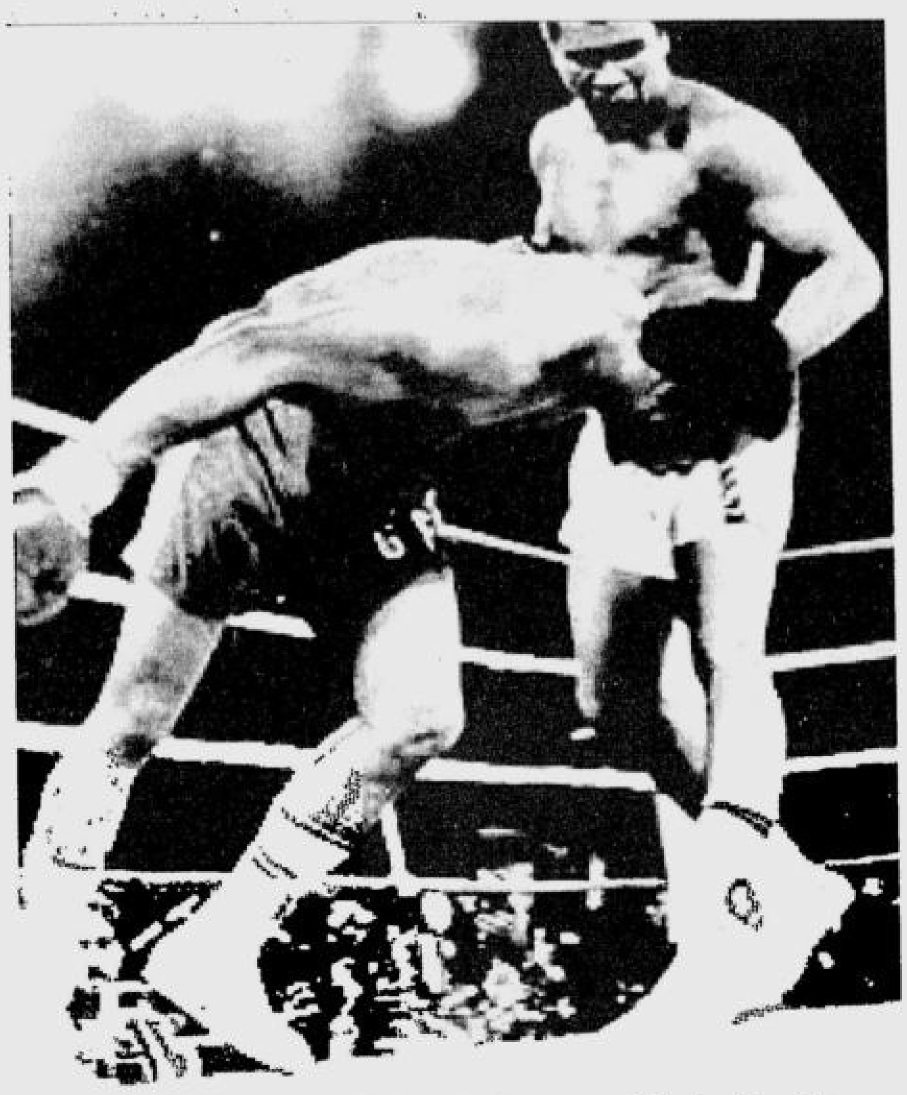
Rumors

He continued, "We get rumors from time to time that Muhammad Ali would send money to help fix up the stadium, but those rumors never come true. We just have to have hope that someday, someone—even our government—would repair this stadium, because it's a world monument. A monument for boxing."

The boxing coach walked over to Melkei, the 12-year-old boxer, and corrected the positioning of his hands, moving them closer to his head.

"Protect yourself," he said.

Just as Ali did that night long ago in Kinshasa. *New York Times News Service*



THE FIGHT may be reduced to black-and-white memorabilia elsewhere, but somewhere in Congo, old men remember it in full color.

S

ing will r in nil- dly- g. nd- aq- d to h of d a ory ful hey lay- ter as ess nt me re- uld ext ere but ing me ak- ner AFP

new coach

failed to reach fs, losing a tie- Jersey for the fi- erence berth. choice will be g James a mem- iers. He can ex- offers after an- ng up Indiana's ould be the sec- ach in the NBA Lawrence Frank. 3 seasons in the year was inter- aching jobs in Toronto and Atlanta.

In three seasons as an assistant coach at San Antonio, Brown was part of the Spurs' success, including the 2003 NBA crown. Brown also worked at Denver and Washington.

The Cavaliers fired Paul Silas last season and Brendan Malone served as an interim to complete the season.

Detroit coach Larry Brown has denied he will take over as the Cavaliers' director of basketball operations during the Pistons' still-ongoing NBA playoff run. *AFP*

not retiring

e world champi- race in seven at- on, a year after ompetition with fifth in Sunday's Prix at Nuerbur- . Schumacher's season is still the secured in the Australia. nd I can evaluate er than anyone from outside. I can see what's happening in races," Schumacher said. "I always try to give my best but sometimes even the best is not enough."

Schumacher is eighth in the standings with 16 points, 43 fewer than leader Fernando Alonso. His Ferrari team is fifth, similarly adrift of first-place Renault.

Even so, Schumacher said he was having more fun racing "than many people would like to think." *AP*

awaits Tszyu

pion, he is likely ds in the 22,000 more than a few the 35-year-old is brought up in of Serov in the is fighting in Eu- ime since defect- oviet Union after r championships legendary Mexi- havez away from home five years ago and with most of his world title fights taking place outside of his adopted homeland of Australia, Tszyu insisted Sunday's bout was nothing new.

"When I beat Julio Cesar Chavez in his territory, I earned so many Mexican fans," he said. "They now treat me like one of their own and see me as a Mexican fighter."

He added: "I am sure all the English fans will appreciate me on June 5. I'm here to show my skills and I am very confident in myself. *AFP*

ves better time

expects to ices in the the Grand 29 seconds n Hengelo, to Chandra ut this sea- lay," Jones to improve now." npic gold r form and to the Bay ve steroid he has nev- es ever us- bstances.

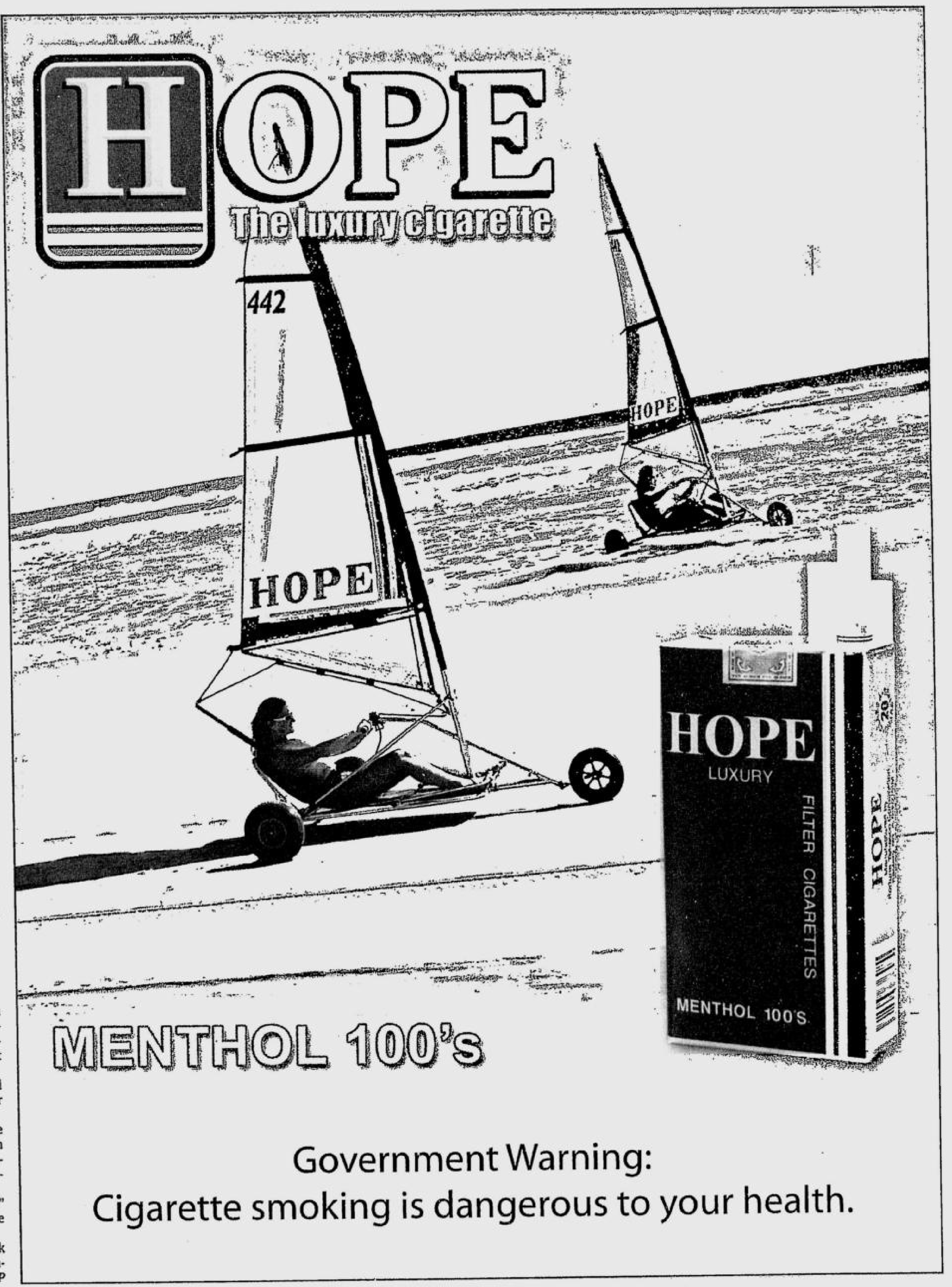
But the American sprinter has been shunned by many European meet organizers since being linked to Balco. The Euro Meetings Group has recommended not inviting Jones to any events.

"I never got calls from any individual saying I could not compete. It's unfair what they are trying to do," Jones said.

The American sprinter also said she will compete in the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon, on Saturday, and possibly race in other meets before the US trials, which begin on June 24.

"I'll run 100 and 200 m (at the trials)," Jones said. "For this year I'm giving up the long jump to focus on sprints."

Jones said she and coach Steve Riddick have not made any changes to her training program. *AP*



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Gaudio, Henin-Hardenne provide study in contrast

PARIS—Self-confidence doesn't come easily to 2004 French Open champion Gaston Gaudio, who has insisted since the tournament started that he had no chance to win again.

Trailing in a third-set tiebreaker Monday against David Ferrer, Gaudio remained pessimistic.

"Don't worry. You'll win today," he told Ferrer's coach, sitting in the stands.

For Gaudio, the words proved painfully prophetic. He blew a 4-0 lead in the final set and lost to Ferrer, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-4.

Why did Gaudio predict defeat to Ferrer's coach?

"I could see that I wasn't playing well," Gaudio said. "There was no way I was going to get out of it playing like that."

During the tiebreaker, Gaudio became so angry he busted his racket. In the final set he lost the last six games and said he couldn't think clearly.

"I got too nervous, I guess. And after that, I couldn't do anything," Gaudio said.

Nerves had plagued Gaudio for years. When he was particularly down on himself a couple of years ago, he enlisted the help of a psychologist—making his title last year at Roland Garros all the more impressive.

Against Guillermo Coria, Gaudio became the first man in 70 years to win a French Open final after facing match point.

Coming into the French Open, Gaudio had won three clay court titles this year—in Vina del Mar, Buenos Aires and Estoril.

That didn't boost his confidence. Last week he picked Coria, Rafael Nadal and top-ranked Roger Federer as the top contenders.

"When you're confident, your game is much better," he said Monday. "I knew it wasn't going to happen. I didn't think I was going to win it again."

'Impossible is nothing'

In contrast, Justine Henin-Hardenne approaches each challenge with a mantra: "Impossible is nothing."

She coined the phrase more than a year ago.

"That's the story of my life," said Henin-Hardenne, who traces her fighting spirit to a young age, when she dreamed of becoming a tennis star.

At the age of 10, Henin-Hardenne attended the 1992 French Open women's final and told her mother that one day she would be back on Roland Garros' center court—and that maybe she would win.

She made her dream come true by winning the title in 2003. But her mother wasn't there to see it: She died of cancer when Henin-Hardenne was 12.

"A lot of things happened in my life, when I was a little girl and I wanted to become a professional tennis player," Henin-Hardenne said. "I just did everything to become a good tennis player."

And so, she convinced herself that nothing was impossible.

"My coach helped me, my husband helped me. A lot of people helped me," she said. "But I think I found the solution by myself."

Henin-Hardenne overcame two match points in the fourth round Monday to beat US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 7-5. In the quarterfinals, the Belgian faces second-seeded Maria Sharapova. *AP*

FRENCH OPEN

Robredo ousts Safin; top bets crash out

PARIS—Three big threats tumbled—Australian Open champion Marat Safin, defending French Open champ Gaston Gaudio and last year's runner-up, Guillermo Coria—while teen phenom Rafael Nadal kept winning Monday at Roland Garros.

Safin, who also owns a US Open title, was eliminated by Spain's Tommy Robredo 7-5, 1-6, 6-1, 4-6, 8-6 in 3 hours, 50 minutes.

Safin got fed up with his tennis and said he did what any normal person would do: He whacked his changeover chair with his racket, leaving a gaping hole in the wooden base.

"I destroyed the chair, I destroyed the racket because I couldn't take it anymore," said Safin, who lost his fourth-round match—but not without putting on a show.

Muttering to himself, swaggering around the court, making a public show of moping over missed opportunities, the third-seeded Russian was the crowd favorite.

Not known for keeping his cool under pressure, Safin insisted he had done his best to stay calm. But there were points that got the best of him.

"You get sick and tired of it," Safin said.

He shared the sound of the demons in his head: "Keep on trying, keep on trying, keep on trying, keep on trying and waiting, waiting, waiting for better times to come."

One of those times came in the third set, serving at 15-40 in the fifth game. Safin lost the point, hurled his racket at the baseline and then attacked his chair. He broke the racket as well as the chair and received a warning from the chair umpire.

"Of course, not one normal person could live with that," he said, referring to the lost point. "Otherwise, if I keep swallowing everything ... I would go crazy."

Safin's powerful groundstrokes and speeding serves, at times, drew gasps from the crowd. But he played inconsistently and finished with 73 unforced errors to only 46 winners.

Known for his immense talent and tempestuousness, the 6-foot-4 Safin seldom keeps his emotions bottled up.

"He's a great player," Robredo said. "He's a great guy. Sometimes he breaks a racket."

Robredo displayed the opposite demeanor, one that he feels gave him a mental edge.

"I was very concentrated," said the 23-year-old Robredo, who matched his best showing at Roland Garros by reaching the quarterfinals. "In the end, I think I was more calm than he was."

The loss ended Safin's quest to add a French Open title to his US Open and Australian Open championships.

"I was fighting until the last minute, until the last point," Safin said. "I don't have any regrets."

"Not one thing went the way I wanted it to go," Safin added. "I had to struggle with everything. I'm not taking away any credit from him. He played really well. But I was missing a little something."

Gaudio and Coria were knocked out 26 minutes apart.

Gaudio, who saved two match points in a five-set final against Coria last year, showed less fighting spirit this time around, losing, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-4, to David Ferrer. He threw away a 4-0 lead in the decider.

"I got too nervous, I guess," Gaudio said.

Coria, a semifinalist at Roland Garros in 2003, conceded that the No. 12 seed Davydenko deserved the 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-2 victory.

"He took risks on set points in my favor and won," Coria said. "There's nothing to be angry about."

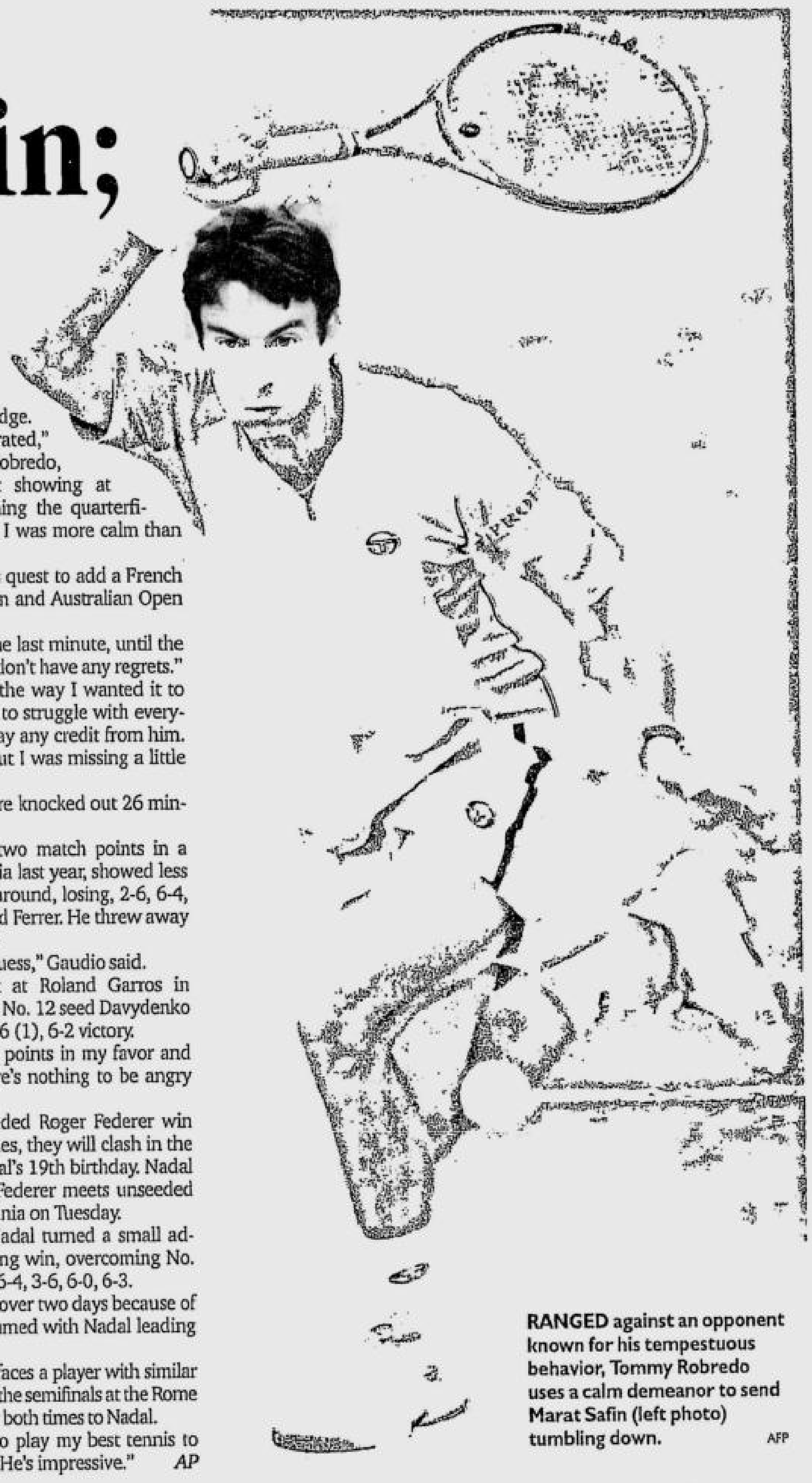
If Nadal and top-seeded Roger Federer win their quarterfinal matches, they will clash in the semifinals Friday—Nadal's 19th birthday. Nadal plays Ferrer next, and Federer meets unseeded Victor Hanescu of Romania on Tuesday.

The fourth-seeded Nadal turned a small advantage into a convincing win, overcoming No. 23 Sebastien Grosjean, 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 6-3.

The match stretched over two days because of Sunday's rain. Play resumed with Nadal leading 3-0 in the third set.

In Ferrer, Nadal next faces a player with similar intensity. Ferrer reached the semifinals at the Rome and Key Biscayne, losing both times to Nadal.

"I'm going to have to play my best tennis to beat him," Nadal said. "He's impressive." *AP*



RANGED against an opponent known for his tempestuous behavior, Tommy Robredo uses a calm demeanor to send Marat Safin (left photo) tumbling down. AFP

Justine, Maria beat different paths to quarters

PARIS—Maria Sharapova completed her fourth-round victory in 10 minutes Monday, while Justine Henin-Hardenne needed more than three hours to reach the quarterfinals at the French Open.

Henin-Hardenne played for 3 hours, 15 minutes, overcoming two match points in the fourth round to beat reigning US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 7-5.

"It was a bit of a miracle," Henin-Hardenne said. "I was seeing her very nervous. She was afraid to win the match. That was very clear. When you can see that in the eyes of your opponent, that is very good for myself."

The Belgian's opponent in the quarterfinals Tuesday will be second-seeded Sharapova, who swept the final three games to complete a match suspended overnight because of rain. She beat Nuria Llagostera Vives, 6-2, 6-3.

Henin-Hardenne occasionally grimaced from a back injury that has bothered her for weeks, but she still rallied past Kuznetsova, sweeping the final four games and the last seven points.

Kuznetsova, seeded sixth, conceded that nerves got the best of her.

"She didn't win it. I lost," the Russian said. "The moment I had to do something, I didn't do anything. ... It's a game. It's the most important thing to you. The harder you want it, then you want it so much, the more nerves you get."

Seeded No. 10, Henin-Hardenne won her third three-set match in four rounds. The 2003 Roland Garros champion ran her winning streak to 21 matches, all on clay, and improved to 24-1 since returning in March from a seven-month layoff because of a blood virus and knee injury.

Joining her in the women's final eight will be three teenagers, including No. 29 Ana Ivanovic. The 17-year-old Serb beat No. 22 Francesca Schiavone, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3 and will next play No. 7 Nadia Petrova.

Sharapova's match was halted Sunday night because of drizzle with the second set 3-3. She needed 17 points to complete the win, with Llagostera Vives shanking a backhand on match point.

"It's never easy coming back," Sharapova said. "I guess it was good just to have a good night's sleep." *AP*

SHARAPOVA AP

Umpire's decision mars Nadal-Grosjean bout

PARIS—Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal said Monday that French tennis fans were out of order when they erupted in anger over a disputed linecall in his French Open clash with home favorite Sebastien Grosjean.

The row started when Argentine umpire Damien Steiner turned down a request from Grosjean to verify a ball mark that had given the 18-year-old fourth seed a break in the opening game of the second set after he had pocketed the first.

Grosjean's supporters in a packed Roland Garros center court were livid and jumped to their feet to hurl insults at the umpire and even berate Nadal.

The din lasted 10 minutes with the tournament referee being called on to court at one stage and it was only when Grosjean called for calm that play could resume.

"The crowd really didn't behave as they should have. I've never seen anything like that," said Nadal who is being touted as a new superstar in world tennis.

Not in Spain

"But this is France. That kind of thing would not happen in Spain. It was for a silly thing. The umpire was right.

"The crowd got rowdy and they started whistling and at that point we should have gone back to the changing rooms until they became quiet.

"It made me lose my concentration somewhat."

Jeering fans

Nadal promptly ceded his own serve immediately after the resumption and with the fans whistling and jeering the umpire at the end of each point and changeover, an inspired Grosjean went on to level at one set all.

The Spaniard gathered himself to lead 3-0 in the third when play was called off for the day because of rain.

On Monday's resumption, Nadal wasted no time in finishing off the tie winning the third 6-0 and the fourth 6-3 and there were no further incidents. *AFP*

NADAL: I lost my concentration REUTERS

Pierce, last French hope, calm before big match

PARIS—Mary Pierce continues her unlikely quest for a third Grand Slam title when the French Open reaches the quarterfinal stage on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old Pierce, who won the championship five years ago to go with her Australian crown of 1995, takes on world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport.

American Davenport is bidding to claim the only Grand Slam trophy to elude her.

Pierce is the only French player left in the singles and she is reveling in the support of the Roland Garros fans, something that was not always the case.

"In the past it was definitely difficult for me because I did feel a lot of pressure, I felt a lot of expectation," the number 21 seed told reporters.

"Now I just have a lot of fun when I go out there. I like to enjoy the moments with the fans.

"On paper I shouldn't win. On paper I shouldn't have won the last two matches.

"But I'm playing my favorite tournament, playing on my favorite court. I've nothing to lose."

French bets crashed out earlier, including top hope Amelie Mauresmo, whose French Open hopes were left in tatters by 17-year-old Serbian Ana Ivanovic, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Other French women who were defeated were Tatania Golovin, Emilie Loit and Nathalie Dechy. Richard Gasquet and Sebastian Grosjean crashed out in the men's side. *AFP*

Longshot in 3-way tie for early Samsung Tour lead

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—Longshot Anthony Victoria birdied the last two holes for an even-par 72 that ushered him to a share of the lead with highly-favored club bets Kim Chang Hoi and Omar Dungca after the opening round yesterday of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the challenging Royal Northwoods Golf and Country Club here.

Victoria, son of local pro Willie, birdied three of the first four holes but still needed that big finish to earn a piece of the lead after lapsing with five consecutive bogeys from the 12th in this kickoff leg of a nationwide series.

Dungca was already four shots behind Kim at the turn but made a 33 coming home capped by a three-birdie string from the 13th while Kim, the Korean teenager who is the reigning grand finals champion, needed back-to-back birdies from the 16th to join the crowd at the top.

The three shared a one-stroke lead over Mario Labajo, who posted a 73 despite bogeys on his first two holes, while the favored Boyet Saragoza, Rufino Bayron and Gerome Malaga were tied at 74 in a tightly-bunched lead pack.

Only the top 10 of the 25 starters in the championship division play will advance to the last two rounds set Thursday and Friday. The projected cut is so far at 10-over.

Young Michael Manotoc soared to an 88 to be at 20th place and needs a big rally today to make the cut.

The bulk of the field numbering about a hundred will vie for the top places in Classes A, B, C and D in the men's division and Classes A , B, C in the ladies category. The division champion gets a Samsung C200 cellular phone while the runner-up receives an MP3 player.

The other sponsors of this year's Samsung Tour are Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

The second leg will be hosted by Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro on June 29-July 2, then motors to Camp John Hay in Baguio on Aug. 30-Sept. 2 before moving to another new stop, Riviera, on Oct. 10-13. Ayala Greenfield stages the final eliminations leg on Nov. 15-18, with all the leg winners clashing in the grand finals at Summit Point on Feb. 21-24, 2006.

For details on the Samsung Amateur Tour, please call 635-0010 and fax 631-5768.

SPORTSWATCH

Tac-an stuns Dizon in Surigao net tilt

SURIGAO CITY— Kent Tac-an upset top seed Andrei Dizon of Davao, 6-0, 7-5, yesterday to arrange a title showdown with June Ryan Montalbo for the boys' 14-under trophy in the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop at the Surigao Tennis Club here. Montalbo waylaid Amiel Aya-ay of Maasin, 6-1, 6-2, in the Milo tournament organized by CTW, supported by adidas and sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association. San Beda Manila standout Juv Alban retired younger brother Juke to set up a finals clash with the fancied Francis Casey Alcantara, who routed Lawrence Borres, 6-2, 6-0, in the boys' 18-under class. Also shooting for titles were Kristel Mae Buenacosa of Cebu who overcame Steffi Dizon in three sets, 2-6, 6-2, 7-6, in the girls' 16-under bracket, and Cindy Gerapusco of Polomolok, South Cotabato, who whipped Kimberly Trager, 6-2, 6-3, in the girls' 14-under.

Bautista gets pointers from Roach

POINTERS from renowned American trainer Freddie Roach will come in handy for WBO Asia-Pacific bantam champion Rey "Boom-Boom" Bautista when the Filipino battles Mexico's Gilberto Bolanos in the "El Gran Combate" card on June 11 at the Mandaue Cultural and Sports Complex. The 2003 Trainer of the Year has seen both the 18-year-old Bautista and the iron-fisted Bolanos in separate outings in the past. Roach had also served as the cornerman of NABO bantamweight champion Karen Harutyunyan when the Armenian was stopped by Bolanos in the seventh round in Montebello, California. "Bolanos is a game and tough opponent who comes straight at you," said Roach. "Bautista should watch out for his head (Bolanos) as he frequently uses it to head butt his opponent." Nothing less than free-wheeling action is expected when Bautista trades leathers with Bolanos. Tickets are available at the USA Sports boutiques in Ayala and SM and at the Life Prolong Office, TPE Building at Banilad and for Bohol fans at the Island Souvenirs outlet at the Island City Mall in Tagbilaran City and ALA Boxing Gym at Taloto.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Gejon vies for WBC Int'l crown in SA

MANDAUE CITY—Philippine minifly champ Elmer Gejon will attempt to become the country's next regional title-holder when he vies for the vacant World Boxing Council International miniflyweight crown against South Africa's Tshepo Lefele on June 24 in South Africa. The busy-punching Gejon, a protege of champion-maker Wakee Salud, has been tapped to vie for the title by South Africa's top promoter Branco Milenkovic of the Branco Sports Productions, which promotes Lefele. Prospect of the Year 2004 nominee Lefele is the only man who boasts a victory over South African junior flyweight champion Muvhuso Nedzanani. Lefele (11 wins, 1 loss) rose to prominence in South Africa on April 8 when he dropped Wele Maqolo three times before finally stopping the 49-fight veteran. But Gejon said he is in great form and should be ready to take on Lefele at the latter's backyard.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Janiola battles Escaner in San Carlos

INTERNATIONAL Boxing Federation mandatory challenger Wyndel Janiola figures in his last tune-up bout before gunning for the world crown when he takes on journeyman Ricky Escaner on June 10 in San Carlos City. The talented Janiola has just been made the mandatory challenger to IBF junior flyweight champ Will Grigsby after the latter took the crown away from Victor Burgos on May 14 underneath the Winky Wright-Felix Trinidad battle. IBF championship chair Lindsey Tucker, in an interview with this writer, said that Grigsby is mandated to defend his title "within 90 days" against Janiola, who was the original opponent to Burgos before visa problems prevented the Filipino fighter from travelling to the United States. The IBF then ordered that the 35-year-old Grigsby (18-2-1, 7 KO's) replace Janiola in the Don King-promoted card, with the express assurance that the winner will have to face the Filipino next.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

10 cage teams make it to intercity phase

AFTER nearly four months of eliminations all over Metro Manila, 10 teams have advanced to the intercity phase of the First Global Destiny Basketball League. Makati Blue, Quezon City Blue, Valenzuela Light Blue, San Juan Orange and Muntinlupa Violet qualified to the next stage of the inaugural grassroots program of the cable TV giant backed by Solid Video Corp., Sony Philippines and MyDestiny Cable Internet. Joining them in the next round of the event also supported by Avid Sales Corp., Regent Food and Molten balls are Mandaluyong Red, Parañaque Green, Marikina Black, Pasay Blue and Las Piñas Blue. Tournament commissioner Jet Gaerlan said the qualifiers represented the best from each of the 10 groups. Philip Chien, president and chief executive officer of Global Destiny, also cited the teams which made it to the next phase. "These teams have proven themselves to be a cut above the rest," he said. Each city champion gets P10,000 for topping its group, with the runner-up getting P5,000 and the third placer P3,000. The mechanics and schedule of the next stage of the tournament will be announced later, said Gaerlan.

Summer Heat derby finals today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the Summer Heat 4-Cock Derby kicks off today at Roligon Mega Cockpit with a whopping P1.2 million cash pot and a Toyota Hi-Lux Diesel at stake. With 45 new participants from the provinces fielding four cocks each, today's 130-fight-plus round will start at 2 p.m. Twenty five cockers tallied two wins apiece after two days of qualifying, among them Arman Garcia (Three Kids), Mauro Prieto (Anito G and O), Ed de Guzman (AKE), Randy Dizon (Escape and GLI), Raul Ebeo (James I), Neth Castilla (NJ Harimanok) and Erwin Diamante (E and J JA). Meanwhile, cockhouse reservation opened yesterday for the Hatawan Sa Tagulan 6-Cock Derby slated July 4, 6, 8, 11 and 13. A cash prize of P3 million plus a five-door Pajero (for the fastest win champion) await the winners. Hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, this annual derby drew 368 entries last year. for Inquiries, call 833-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

KIDS pose with their basketball idol, Purefoods team manager Alvin Patromonio, during a sports clinic at the Virlanie Foundation compound in Makati recently. The basketball and badminton clinics at the institution, held in April and May, was a public service activity of employees of 3M Philippines.

TCC in, Riviera out as SEAG golf venue

JUVIC Pagunsan's sterling form in Malaysia boosts RP preparations.

By Jong Arcano, *INQUIRER Golf editor*

THE NATIONAL Golf Association of the Philippines is moving the golf competitions of the Southeast Asian Games this November from the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite, to The Country Club in Laguna in Canlubang, Laguna.

"It's true, we're going to The Country Club," NGAP president Benny Gopez told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Gopez said that under the revised plan, both the men's and women's events will be played at the super-exclusive course designed by former British Open champion and master architect Tom Weiskopf.

The shift was made through the intercession of golf "godfather" Ricky Razon, the business tycoon who owns a bulk of shares at The Country Club.

In offering the facility to NGAP, Razon wants the team to keep their focus on training without distractions. An advantage: there is hardly any traffic at the course every day and they can virtually have The Country Club all to themselves on weekdays.

"The Country Club will become a private playground for the national team and hopefully this will enhance their winning chances in the SEA Games," said Luigi Tabuena, who is overseeing the golf body's SEA Games training for his cousin Razon.

Tabuena also disclosed that they are not discounting the possibility of the ladies play being held either at Sta. Elena or the Manila Golf Club.

"That is being discussed and the NGAP will be the one to decide on it," said Tabuena, adding that Razon is also lining up several international stints for the national team before the SEAG competitions.

The training pool has earned a major morale-booster after Juvic Pagunsan's runaway victory in the recent Pan West Malaysian Amateur Open at the Kelab Golf Club in Malaysia.

Pagunsan, fresh off earning the low amateur title in the recent Philippine Open at Mt. Malarayat, rattled off four consecutive rounds in the 60s for a 17-under 261 aggregate that won him the individual crown by four strokes over Australian Andrew Dott.

Pagunsan shot big rounds of 69, 69, 65 and 69 to win pulling away.

Jay Bayron wound up at 288 and Artemio Murakami had a 291 as Team Philippines came up with a fighting runner-up finish behind Australia.

The six-man RP team including Marvin Dumandan, Michael Bibat and Jun Bernis are currently playing in the Saujana Amateur Open.

Riviera general manager Buddy Resurreccion, meanwhile, said they have not been notified by the NGAP on plans to move the SEAG competition to The Country Club.

"But it's really their (NGAP) prerogative," he said.

Pinoy cue masters ready to shine

REYES

BUSTAMANTE

WITH six of the country's top cue artists led by Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante competing, hopes are high that a Filipino will rule the fourth and final leg of the San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour which fires off Friday.

Reyes, Bustamante and the four other homegrown bets—Antonio "Nikoy" Lining, Ramil Gallego, Gandy Valle and Ronnie Alcano—appeared in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Seafood Wharf along with Geran Guerrero, marketing manager of Tour sponsor San Miguel Beer.

Asked who would be their main rivals in the Manila leg, Reyes said: "*Sa palagay ko 'yung mga Taiwanese pa rin dahil halos pareho lang ang mga laro natin sa kanila* (I believe it's still the Taiwanese since their style is the same as ours)."

Indeed, Reyes, who had a so-so outing in the third leg in Kaohshiung, was relegated to No. 2 spot in the 9-ball Tour's Order of Merit by Chinese-Taipei's Yang Ching-sun, who took the No. 1 ranking by taking his hometown leg.

"*Pero lamang pa rin tayo dahil dito sa atin ang laro* (But we still have the edge because it will be played here)," added the five-leg winner Reyes during the session sponsored by Agfa, Red Bull, Dimax, Circure and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Bustamante, still looking for his first win in what is now considered as Asia's premier 9-ball circuit, said he would try his best again.

"*Pagbubutihin ko,*" vowed Bustamante. "*Nasa pairing din 'yan kasi baka mahirap ang makatapat mo sa eliminations* (But I will try my best. The pairings will also tell on my chances)."

Guerrero said San Miguel Beer would continue to support the sport where Filipinos are considered world class. The company is bankrolling the Tour for the third straight year.

"We believe in its goals, especially in promoting billiards, where our players excel," he said.

The top 10 players after the Asian Tour get automatic slots to the World Pool championships slated late this year in Taiwan.

The draw for the opening round on Friday will be on Thursday at 3 p.m. at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

Don Enrique golfers top Nokia intervillage north

DON Enrique Heights held off Acropolis with a scrambling 292 Monday to escape with a one-point victory and rule the Nokia Intervillage golf north sector eliminations at the Eastridge Golf and Country Club in Binangonan, Rizal.

The Don Enrique golfers used the nine-point cushion they built in their first-round 296 at Forest Hills last month to ward off their opponents and finish with a 588 total.

Acropolis, with four of its mainstays firing 39 points, rallied with a stirring 300 but still fell short with a 36-hole aggregate of 587.

For finishing second, the Acropolis golfers made it to the grand finals of the annual event sponsored by telecommunications giant Nokia.

La Vista, shooting a 296 for 582, also advanced after thwarting Corinthian Gardens in their own battle for the third and last berth in the championship phase. Corinthian carded a 297 and failed by one point.

Xavierville finished in fifth place with a 573 after a 292, while dethroned champion Philam Homes settled for sixth with a 552 after a 277.

Rounding up the finishers in the event backed by 357 Boracay, Sonlie International Corp., Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corp., BJ Marthel International, Inc. and Pisanti golf shirts were Filinvest I (463) and St. Ignatius (452).

RACING

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Race 4—1. Aya's Star 2. Apex 3. Sweet Talk 4. La Signorina
Race 5—1. Holy King 2. Extreme Illusion 3. Sa Wakas 4. Strong Colony 5. Tenacity
Race 6—1. Noble Principality 2. Rindo Maker 3. Kalashnikov 4. Trader's Choice
Race 7—1. Schwarzenegger 2. Mercurian 3. Stradivarius 4. Red Bells 5. Brazen Truth
Race 8—1. Miracle Music 2. Boy from Brazil 3. Hale and Hearty 4. Blitzkrieg 5. Mano Po 6. Galaxy Wars

Team Networx, Rosario head jet ski awardees

NETWORX Jetsports Team, led by World Jet Ski runner-up Paul del Rosario, bagged the most number of podium finishes in the 2005 JSAP Invitational Jet Ski Reunion Race held at the Caylabne Beach Resort in Ternate, Cavite, recently.

Del Rosario will receive two trophies for topping the Stand-Up and Sport Open classes. He will be joined by BJ Ang, Peter Cruz and Carlo Garcia at the podium for the team award.

Ang finished third in the 800cc class and second in the 1200cc class; Peter Cruz clinched runner-up honors in the Stand Up class and third place in the Novice 4-stroke class; while Carlo Garcia wound up third in both the Expert Runabout 1200 class and the Stand Up class.

"That's eight trophies in one event, and we're happy with the team's achievement," said Networx Jetsports team manager Dong Arcilla.

The awards rites will be held at the Dream 1 Bar and Restaurant, 39 Timog Ave. at 8 p.m.

Del Rosario could have nailed a triple victory but an incident denied him of the title in the Expert Runabout 1200 class. The low tide caused the buoy rope to float and get entangled with his ski.

SPORTS

Gonzales, Mendoza, So in top-flight chess clinic

INTERNATIONAL Master Jayson Gonzales and Woman International Master Beverly Mendoza will share their expertise to young players from different chess clubs in Metro Manila during the Starmall Star Kids Chess Clinic on June 11 at the Starmall Shaw-Edsa.

Simultaneous exhibition games featuring 11-year-old Fide Master Wesley So against 12-under players will cap the event sponsored by Starmall Shaw-Edsa branches of Elephant Exhibit, Boston Co., David's Salon, Zagu, Sisidlan Bags, Pizza Hut, Joey 92.3 and DZSR 918.

The clinic will start at 2 p.m.

Gracing the event organized by GTC and Starmall Shaw-Edsa is celebrity host Anthony Pangilinan and Japanese teen star Kunatsu Fukuda.

Registration is free. For details, call 0919-8329239.

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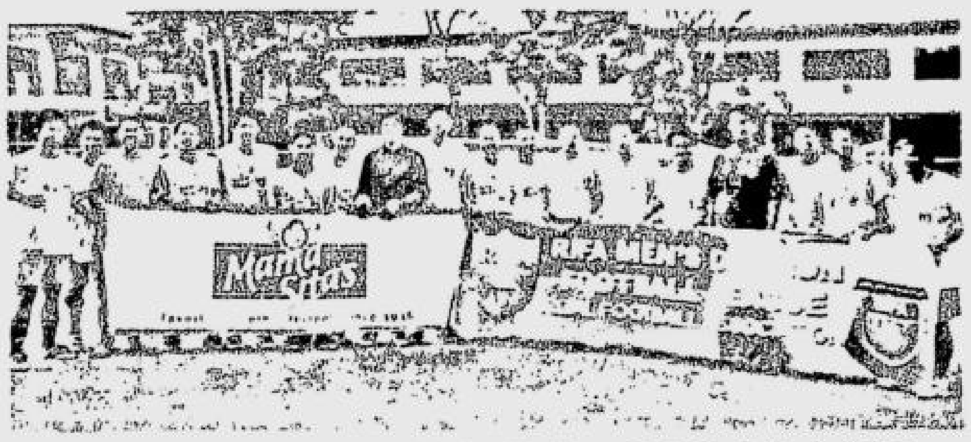


RIFA CHAMPS: Members and team officials of the Mama Sita's Manila Football Club, including striker Pip Rosell, fullback Tito Basug and goalkeeper JP Demontano, pose for posterity after ruling the men's division of the 1st RIFA (Rizal Football Association) Football League at the Don Bosco Makati football field recently.

RAPID CHESS

Garma, Mariano stay unscathed

INTERNATIONAL Master Chito Garma and National Master Cesar Mariano downed separate rivals in the third round to remain undefeated in the NCFP Men's Rapid Chess semifinal Monday at the Market Place Shopping Mall in Mandaluyong City.

Garma, a noted slam-bang player, outmaneuvered Fide Master Jesse Noel Sales, while Mariano overwhelmed Julius Sinangote to push their respective outputs to 3.0 points in the tournament.

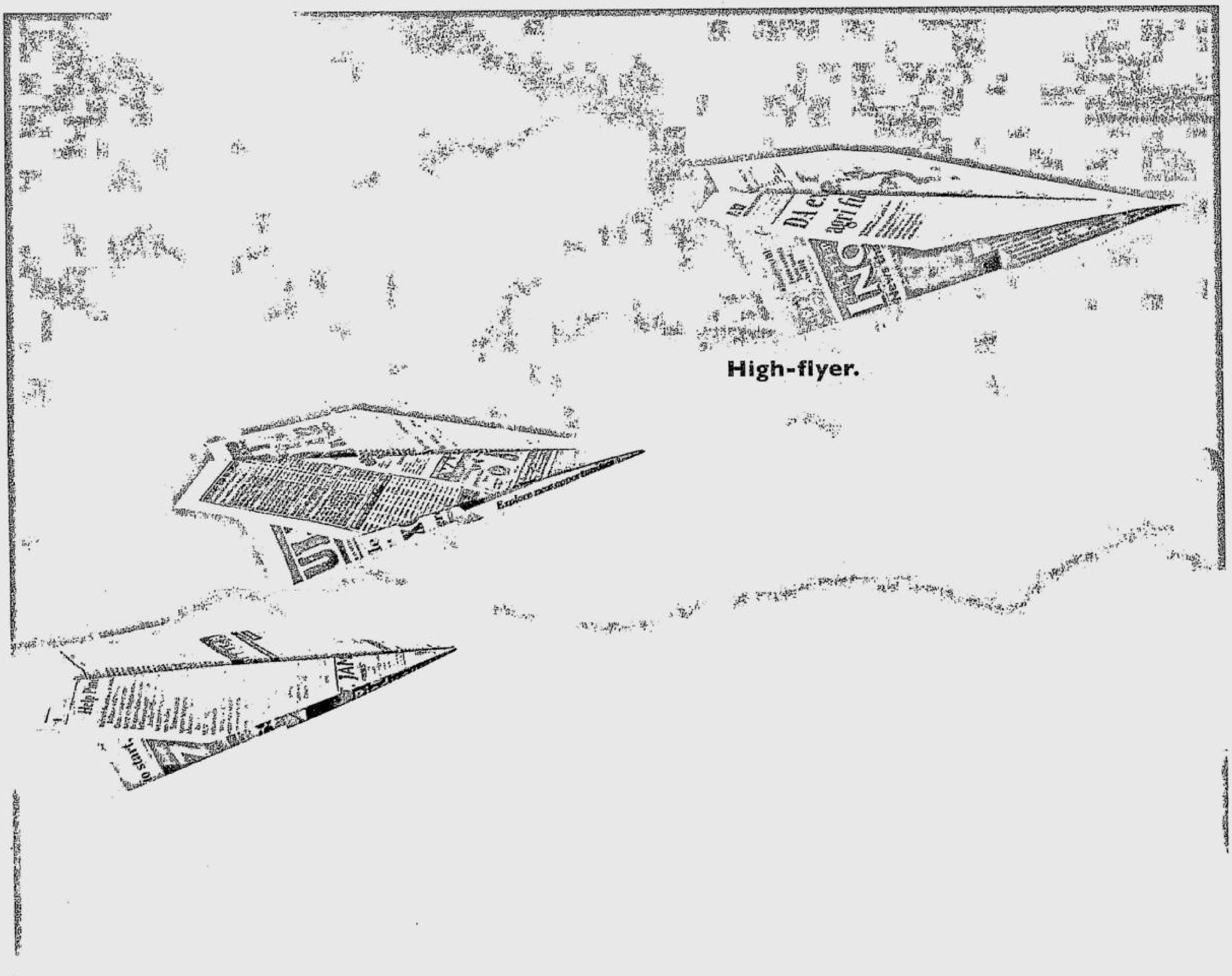
Veteran IMs Richard Bitoon and Barlo Nadera also toppled their respective opponents to lead a big chase group with identical 2.5 points.

Bitoon trounced Nelson Villanueva, while Nadera whipped Desmond Lopez.

The matches pitting NM Jerry Nodado against Truman Hernaez and FM Fernie Donguines versus NM Nicomedes Alisangco ended in draws. Tied for the lead at the start of the round, the four were now in a tie with Nadera, Lopez and seven others at second spot.

Reigning National Open champion and tournament dark horse NM Darwin Laylo stayed in the hunt after beating NM Alex Milagrosa for his second point.

The top 10 finishers after the 11-round Swiss System tournament will join Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano II and IMs Mark Paragua, Jayson Gonzales and Ronald Dableo in the grand finals.



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MISS PHILIPPINES-Earth 2005 Genebelle Raagas (center) and her court (from left): April Lyn Villanueva, Nadia Lee Cien dela Cruz, Arleine Villanueva and Antonette Stephanie Yu. RYAN LIM

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Tallest candidate wins Miss RP-Earth

Genebelle Raagas was also picked Best in Swimsuit

By Armin Adina

YOUTH proved to be an advantage during Sunday night's coronation of the new Miss Philippines-Earth at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

Two 18-year-old candidates beat 22 others, with Central Luzon's Genebelle Raagas taking home the plum title. Crowd favorite Nadia Lee Cien dela Cruz of the National Capital Region was proclaimed Miss Philippines-Air title, the pageant's equivalent of first runner-up.

Genebelle, the tallest candidate at 5'10", was also picked Best in Swimsuit and Miss Avon Color. She became P250,000 richer, and will represent the country in the Miss Earth pageant in October.

The pageant is a Philippines-based international competition.

Outgoing queen Tamera Marie Szijarto was not present to relinquish her title. Lorraine Schuck, executive vice president of pageant organizer Carousel Productions, handed the crown to Genebelle instead.

Miss Philippines Eco-Tourism April Lyn Villanueva of Central Visayas was the oldest of the Top 5 at 22. Another 18-year-old, Antonette Stephanie Yu of the NCR, was fourth placer (Miss Philippines-Fire), while Arleine Villanueva, 19, of the Cordillera Administrative Region finished third (Miss Philippines-Water). Antonette Stephanie was also adjudged Miss Photogenic.

Asked what she feared most, as a woman, Genebelle said: "Losing my family ... because they are the ones who taught me how to be a

TALLEST/ A2-2

OPENING TODAY

Say That You Love Me

Directed by Marc Alejandre
Stars Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras, Nadine Samonte, Bearwin Meily, Tuesday Vargas

SUMMARY: The new movie from the country's reigning *kilig* director is not about social class; it's about the unlikely attraction that develops between a spunky girl (Jennylyn Mercado) and a *torpe* guy (Mark Herras). And just when everything is coming up roses, the guy does something incredibly stupid and the girl ends up hating him. Fast forward to the end—and they live happily ever after, possibly laughing all the way to the box office, too. It's the launching movie of "Starstruck" winners Mercado and Herras, from the same director who gave us V-day's *kilig* movie "Let the Love Begin."

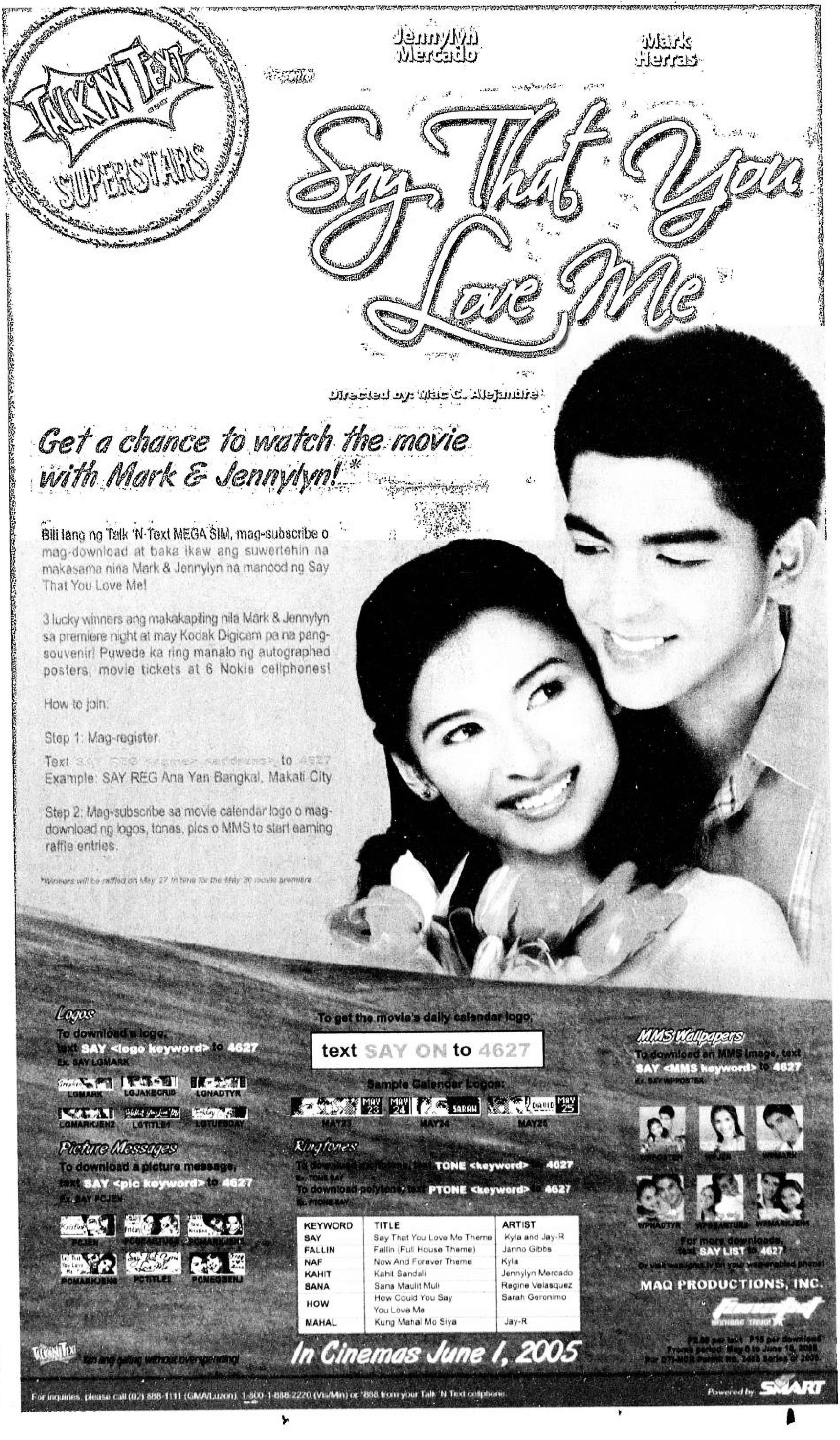
A lot like love

Directed by Nigel Cole
Stars Ashton Kutcher, Amanda Peet, Herschel Bleefeld

SUMMARY: The movie traces the relationship of Oliver (Ashton Kutcher) and Emily (Amanda Peet) who first meet on a flight from Los Angeles to New York seven years earlier—each of them declaring that they couldn't be more wrong for each other.

Bob Townsend wrote in his review for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "With less fluff and more funk than is usual for the genre, Kutcher and Peet make surprisingly appealing foils for each other. And as they both go beyond their usual goofball personas to delve into a bit of drama, they develop something approaching chemistry. Best known lately as Demi Moore's boy toy, Kutcher appears quietly self-possessed. And stepping up to a leading role, Peet exudes sexy charm and vulnerability. Unfortunately, despite flashes of clever dialogue and some snappy di-

OPENING/ A2-4



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FALLIN	Fallin (Full House Theme)	Janno Gibbs
NAF	Now And Forever Theme	Kyla
KAHIT	Kahit Sandali	Jennylyn Mercado
SANA	Sana Maulit Muli	Regine Velasquez
HOW	How Could You Say You Love Me	Sarah Geronimo
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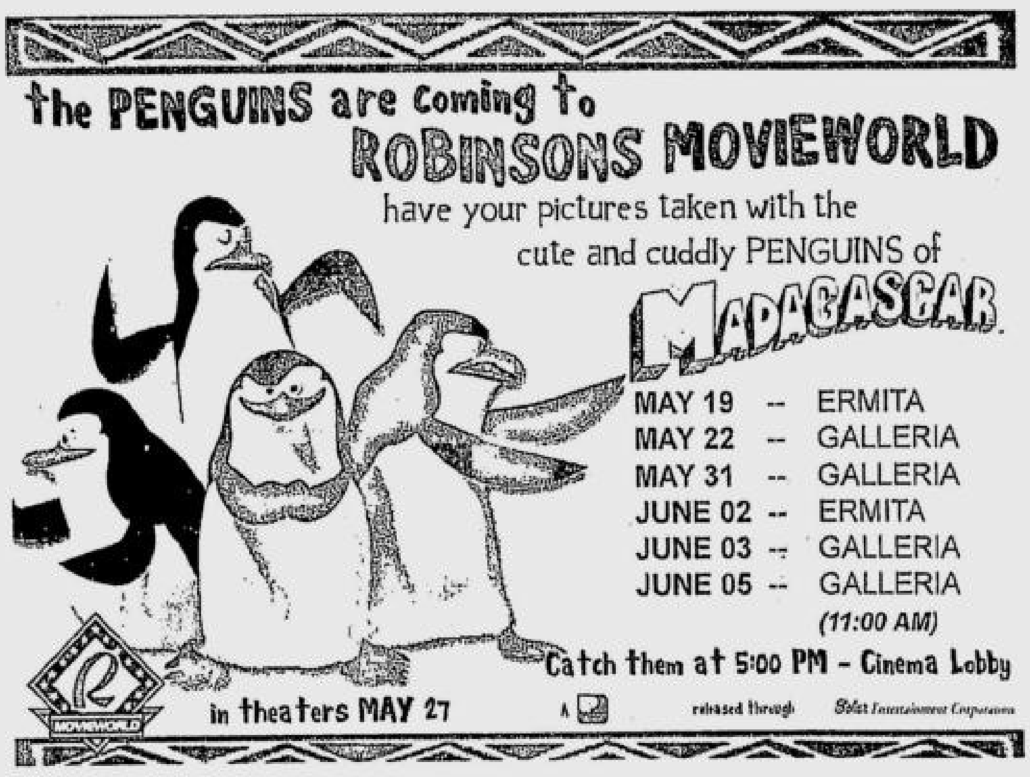
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3 (DOLBY) LA VISA LOCA

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2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE M
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❷ SIN CITY
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June 15, Wednesday, 8pm

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GENEBELLE Raagas

Tallest wins . . .

From page A2-1

good person [and] not to lose hope. They are the only people in the world who I think will support me and not leave me till the end."

A resounding applause capped her response.

The four-hour program introduced some innovations in the elimination of candidates that left the audience, and at times even the hosts, at a loss.

Fifteen semifinalists were trimmed to 12 for the swimsuit parade. Three more girls were eliminated, but one—Olivia Amor Cortes of the NCR—was asked to rejoin the group for the evening gown parade.

The others in the Top 10 were Teresa Fontanilla (NCR), Eizel Jen Nocon (Southern Tagalog), Best in Long Gown Jemay Zacarias (NCR) and Rhodessa Delante (Eastern Visayas).

Miss Friendship Istana Eula Burgos (NCR) and Chinette Oblepias (NCR) joined the Top 12 while Olive Benito (Northern Mindanao), Pauline Garrison (NCR) and Bernadette Estrada (Western Mindanao), actor John Estrada's aunt, rounded out the Top 15.

Benito, Burgos, Yu, Delante and Nocon emerged as Pond's Top 5 Flawless Faces voted through SMS. Nocon was also proclaimed Pond's Flawless Rosy White Skin. Caraga's Feddilaine Apole was Miss Talent.

The coronation night was aired on ABS-CBN. *With a report from Charissa Baldos*

Jericho a hit. . .

From page A2-8

ing some skin on the big screen.

As for the much-anticipated small-screen adaptation of the fantasy series made popular by the late Fernando Poe Jr., Jericho said he's re-shooting some scenes for "Panday" because the production has decided to drop Melissa Ricks, the actress tapped to be his leading lady, from the cast.

"Melissa, who's only 14, is not prepared for the demands of the role," Jericho explained.

The actor also swore he was loveless at the moment. He denied rumors that he had reconciled with his immediate ex, Cindy Kurleto, but said he was happy for the way Cindy's career as a veejay and model was shaping up.

He joked: "*Sa Edsa lang kapag nakikita ko siya* [on billboards] *maluha-luha ako!*"

The performer as vixen

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

With her micro-minis and flimsy tops, Ashanti did not have to sing in her recent Araneta show

MICHAEL Jackson may be experiencing legal trouble these days, but his music still means a lot to many people, including club deejays and contemporary pop artists.

For instance, in DJ Boy George's recent stint at the NBC Tent, his front act, DJ Marc Vedo, was mixing snatches of "Beat It" along with other '80s hits.

Curiously, Ashanti's opening number in her concert Thursday night at the Araneta Coliseum was "Rock With You." It was an illustration of how black artists reveal their influence in significant ways.

Ashanti is one of the hottest R&B singers today. Her career was jump-started when she signed with Ja Rule's record label, Murder Inc. (now renamed Murda Inc.). Her multiplatinum-selling albums were propelled largely by the maximum exposure her videos enjoyed on MTV. Come to think of it, MTV has now become the domain of hip-hop and R&B acts.

Ashanti performing live at the Big Dome sent blood pressures rising. Accompanied by a five-member live band, three backup singers, a DJ and four foxy-looking dancers, Ashanti sashayed like a vixen craving romance. Each time she was on center stage, a strategically positioned electric fan would blow her flimsy blouse up until a good part of her body was exposed.

Difficult dance routines

In fact, it was not so much her singing but her sex-driven movements that caught attention. At one point, she called for a male volunteer from the audience to come up on stage for a special number. The guy showed enthusiasm, until Ashanti and company melted his bravado through an eye-popping exercise of sleaze and seduction.

More skin was bared when Ashanti slipped into a micro-mini that left nothing to the imagination. On their third costume change, Ashanti and her dancers wore an artfully executed underwear ensemble for a number that resembled a classy strip-tease act.

The lack of lyrical substance in Ashanti's songs were compensated for by the compelling beats and rhythms provided by a band powered by three keyboard players. There were certain moments—especially during difficult dance routines—when Ashanti didn't even have to sing, as most of the vocal parts were ably taken over by her backup.

What I saw from her performance was a shadow of various turning points in the history of black music. In her dance choreography, I was reminded of Janet Jackson at the time of "Rhythm Nation." And Ashanti's strutting onstage in revealing outfits recalled Tina Turner at the time of "Private Dancer." Those memories evoked the musical power and artistic influence that the two black artists had rightfully earned.

Ashanti may take a couple more years that, hopefully, would yield greater inspiration before she is elevated and considered a major concert attraction.

It would be safe to assume that only about 7,000 people turned up at the 20,000-capacity Coliseum. But most of them cheered wildly when Ashanti announced that she was having a marvelous time.

ASHANTI: Hot, hot!

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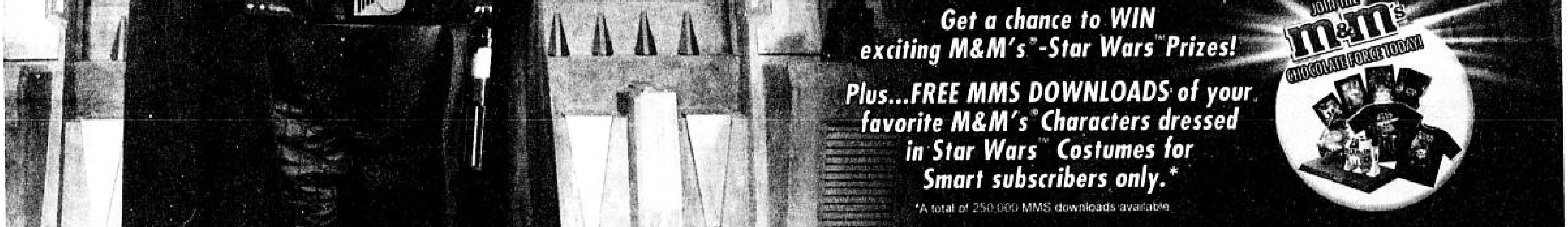
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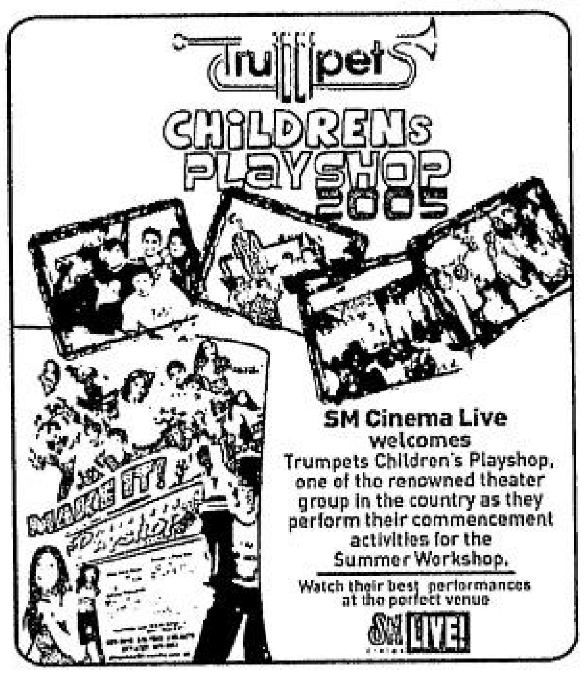

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8. RESERVED
9. RESERVED
10. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
11. TRUMPETS
12. LA VISA LOCA

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2. IN GOOD COMPANY
3. CAN THIS BE LOVE
4. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
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6. LA VISA LOCA
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8. MADAGASCAR
9. BIKINI OPEN
10. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
12. STAR WARS : EPISODE III

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2. HOUSE OF WAX
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6. MADAGASCAR
7. STAR WARS: EPISODE III
8. UNLEASHED

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2. HOUSE OF WAX
3. UNLEASHED
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5. RESERVED
6. BIKINI OPEN
7. MADAGASCAR
8. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
9. LA VISA LOCA
10. ANG LAGUSAN

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2. RESERVED
3. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4. UNLEASHED
5. BIKINI OPEN
6. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
7. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
8. MADAGASCAR
9. HOUSE OF WAX
10. LA VISA LOCA

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2. MADAGASCAR
3. ARE WE THERE YET?
4. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5. xXx 2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
6. UNLEASHED
7. HOUSE OF WAX
8. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
9. LA VISA LOCA
10. CAN THIS BE LOVE
11. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
12. BIKINI OPEN

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2. RESERVED
3. RESERVED
4. RESERVED

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1. LA VISA LOCA
2. UNLEASHED
3. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4. HOUSE OF WAX

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2. LA VISA LOCA
3. HOUSE OF WAX
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5. MADAGASCAR
6. LA VISA LOCA

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2. MADAGASCAR
3. LA VISA LOCA
4. ALONE IN THE DARK

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2. LA VISA LOCA
3. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4. THE WEDDING DATE

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2. LA VISA LOCA
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4. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

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2. RESERVED
3. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4. MADAGASCAR
5. LA VISA LOCA
6. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7. RESERVED
8. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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1. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2. MADAGASCAR
3. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5. LA VISA LOCA
6. UNLEASHED

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1. STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2. ALONE IN THE DARK
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③ HOUSE OF WAX
MTRCB: R-13
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④ MADAGASCAR
MTRCB: GP
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SIN CITY R13	SHUTTER R13	A LOT LIKE LOVE PG13

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CINEMA 4 SIN CITY - R13

CINEMA 5 A LOT LIKE LOVE - PG13

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MUSIC MUSEUM

June 3, 2005	ANTON DIVA & CHOCOLEIT	8PM
JUNE 9, 10, 16 & 17	GARY V. @ 22	8PM

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Taking it t

AS IF the billboards on Edsa weren't enough, now we're seeing stars on . . . the Metro Rail Transit.

Comedy king Dolphy and sons Epi and Vandolph, and hunks Jericho Rosales and Bernard Palanca are only some of the famous faces on nine trains of the MRT, which sport the poster ads of ABS-CBN shows including "Quizon Avenue," "Bora" and "OK Fine Whatever!"

The "Kapamilya" trains were unveiled recently with Charo Santos-Concio, executive vice president

BEATLES' BIGGEST SECRETS
The Beatles revolutionized pop music and changed forever the way we live. That was, at their best—as a band, in which form they also became cultural heroes. The Beatles at their worst is another story altogether. Using new and exclusive interviews, "Beatles' Biggest Secrets" on Star World delves into the private lives of Liverpool's most famous sons. At 8 to 11:30 tonight, with replays tomorrow, 3 a.m. and 11 a.m.

OPENIN

From page A2-1

rection by Nigel Cole ("Calendar Girls," "Savi Grace"), Kutcher and Peet's good work is ultimat done in by a been-there story that borrows a lit too much from "When Harry Met Sally," or is "Four Weddings and a Funeral"?

Shutter

Directed by Banjong Pisanthanakun, Parkpoom Wongpoom
Stars Ananda Everingham, Natthaweeranuch Thongmee, Achita Sikamana

SUMMARY: Tun (Ananda Everingham) and J (Natthaweeranuch Thongmee—try saying that times and fast) accidentally run over a woman. T flee in panic, then call hospitals and scour the papers any news of the accid *Nada*. Did they kill someo Or was the woman Ela girl? Then Tun, a photog pher, notices mysteri white streaks appearing his photos. Is it fungus o there a ghost in the came

Brian Buzz Juerg wrote in his review for Net: "Much to my delight, 'Shutter' m aged to sidestep its t pings and come out as b a scary thriller and an triguing mystery with ending that will shock e the most jaded genre fa

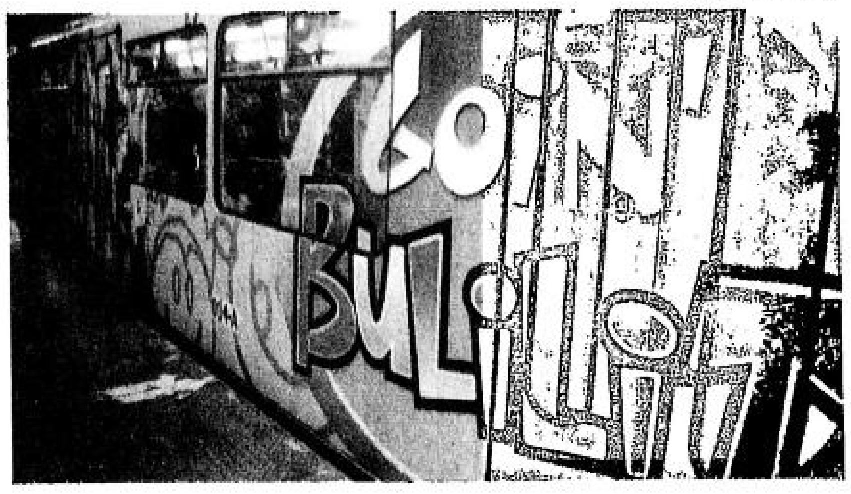
Coach Carter

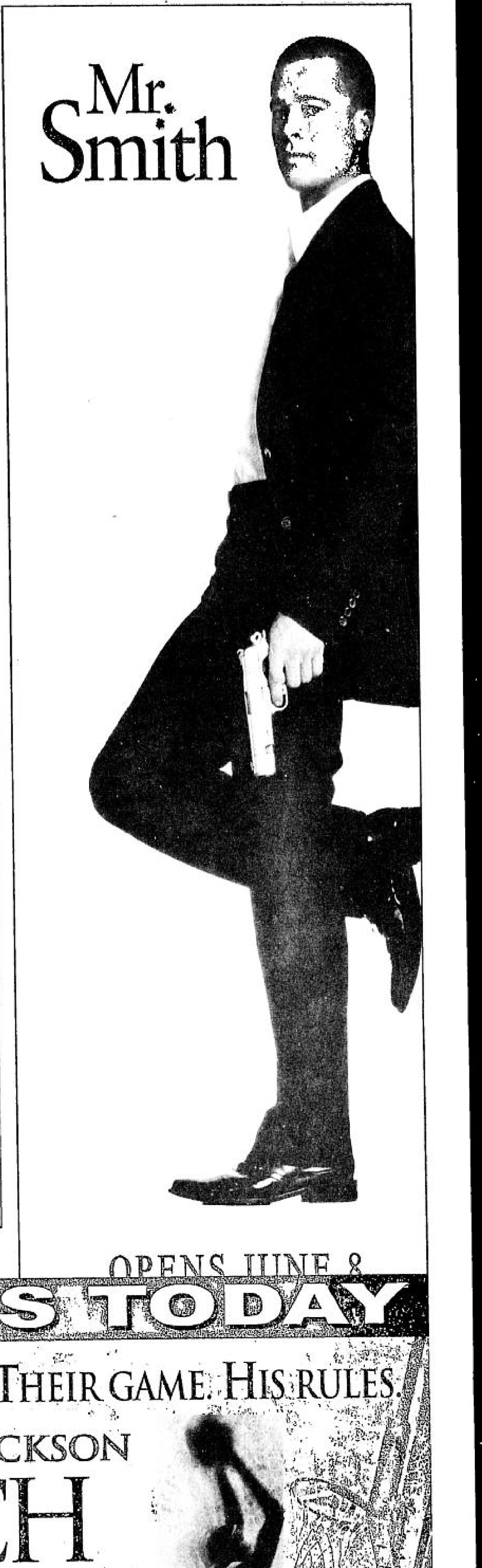
Stars Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Richard, Rick Gonzalez
Directed by Thomas Carter

SUMMARY: Inspired the true-life story of school basketball coach Carter (Samuel L. Jacks who made news in 199 benching his undefe basketball team for academic performance.

Roger Ebert, in his

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



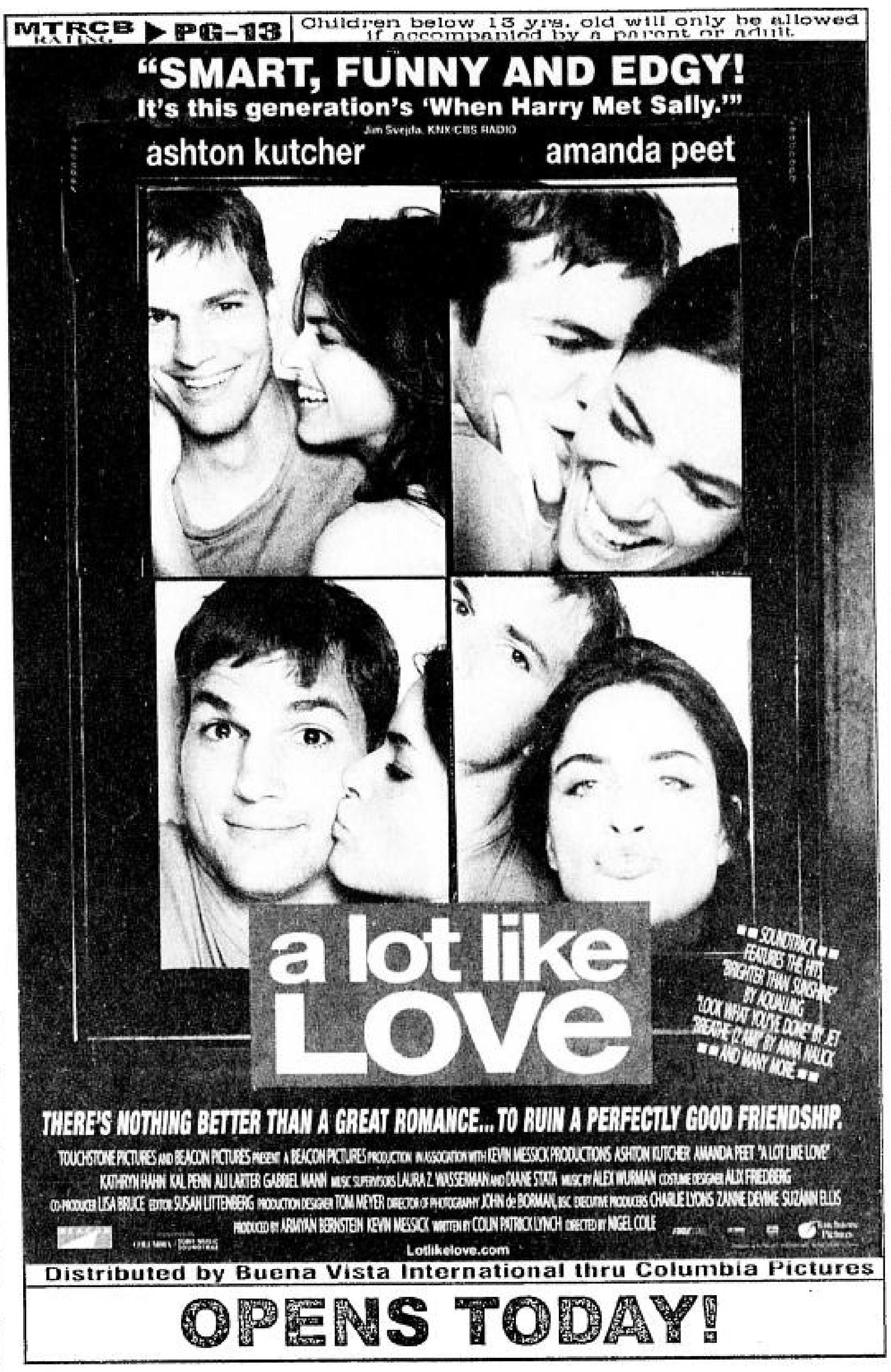


the trains

and head for entertainment; and Cory Vidanes, senior vice president for TV production, leading the ribbon-cutting.

The network's top stars, like Aga Muhlach, Bayani Agbayani, John Estrada, Nikki Valdez and the "Goin' Bulilit" kids, even hopped on board for an actual ride. Later, they signed autographs and posed for pictures with star-struck commuters.

What next? "Kapuso" trains on the Light Rail Transit?


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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Jim Svejda, KNX/CBS RADIO

ashton kutcher amanda peet

a lot like LOVE

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Lotlikelove.com

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENS TODAY!

TODAY

14 review for the Chicago-Sun Times, wrote: "Jackson has the usual big speeches assigned to all coaches in all sports movies, and delivers on them, big time."

Sin City

Directed by: Robert Rodriguez, Frank Miller, Quentin Tarantino
Stars Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis, Benicio Del Toro, Clive Owen, Elijah Wood

SUMMARY: Sin is a violent city where the police department is as corrupt as the streets are deadly. In this movie, we follow three stories, the central of which is Marv (Mickey Rourke), a street fighter who goes on a rampage of vengeance when a beautiful woman he sleeps with for only one night is killed.

Ty Burr, in his April 1 review for the Boston Globe, wrote: "It's been a long three months, but the dry season is over. 'Sin City' is the first great Hollywood joy ride of the year... The film is proudly sensationalistic and hellaciously incorrect, but as directed by Robert Rodriguez and Miller himself (with a guest assist from Quentin Tarantino), it's also a stunning, visceral piece of work—cheap thrills polished to the level of high art."

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 OPENS TODAY

THEIR STREET. THEIR GAME. HIS RULES.

SAMUEL L. JACKSON
COACH CARTER

CoachCarterMovie.com

united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY

OPENS TODAY

MEET THE ACTION MEN

CLIVE OWEN is DWIGHT
MICKEY ROURKE is MARV
BRUCE WILLIS is HARTIGAN
JOSH HARTNETT is THE MAN
MICHAEL MADSEN is BOB
ELIJAH WOOD is KEVIN
BENICIO DEL TORO is JACKIE BOY

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Antidose, full of pretentious and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What do you want to say to all of the people who keep criticizing you for what they say are your cheap performances?

Guest: To all of them, I want to say: Oh, come on, you're full of pretentious!

(—And so are *you*!)

* * *

Host: How effective do you think you were when you were the head of the agency? Were you able to eliminate graft and corruption there?

Guest: Well, modestly speaking, when I was chairman, many of the bad people, I was able to unweed.

(Something obviously got Lost in Translation!)

* * *

Host: As a veteran survivor of World War II, what are your recollections of the guerrilla movement then?

Guest: Many joined the movement. I know, because I was already a gorilla then!

(How honest can you get?)

* * *

Host: If there's another case of poisoning, what can we do to prevent death?

Guest: Speed is important. You need right away to give, how do you call it?—the antidose!

(No, you *don't* call it that!)

* * *

Host: What about if a terrorist bomb explodes near us?

Guest: You have to be careful about not so much the direct explosion, you should cover up right away *para hindi ka tamaan ng mga* sharp nail.

(Yes, sharp nails can *hurt*.)

* * *

Host: On the larger issue of the terrorist problem that's growing in the country, what should we do to significantly reduce the problem?

Guest: It's important first to face the problem, and admit how bad it's become. Then, we have to plan what to do if we have a worst-case ceremony.

(You mean, like this one?)

* * *

Host: Who is the most important person in your life?

Guest: My mother!

Host: Why your mother?

Guest: Through the years, I learn to really appreciate everything she done!

(But she didn't help you with your homework, did she?)

* * *

Host: Is it true that you have been saying bad things about (name of female star)?

Guest: No, no, when I made my criticism, I was not repairing to her!

* * *

Host: You're involved in a big, ugly controversy now, with charges being hurled from one side to the other. How do you cope with such a stressful situation?

Guest: I'm secure, because I believe the tooth will come out in the end!

(Yes—especially with the help of a dentist!)

Songs of love and struggle

Kodao Productions is distributing the album, "Songs of Love and Struggle: From Andres Bonifacio to Jose Maria Sison," featuring Europe-based soprano **Rica Nepomuceno** and pianist **Aries Caces**. Its cuts range from well-loved folk songs, patriotic songs spanning three centuries, and Jose Maria Sison's poems set to music.

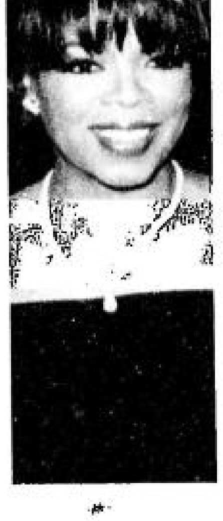
The folk songs include "Usahay," "Sarung Banggi," "Pamaypay ng Maynila" and "Mag-asawa'y Di Biro," with adjusted lyrics reflecting Filipino realities. Also featured are Bonifacio's "Pag-ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa," Abelardo's "Mutya ng Pasig," Umali's "Lupang Hinirang," De Jesus' "Bayan Ko" and Fabella's "Anak ng Bayan."

Sison's poems are "The Guerrilla Is Like a Poet," "The Giant Oak," "What Makes a Hero" and "In Praise of Martyrs."

Jed Madela

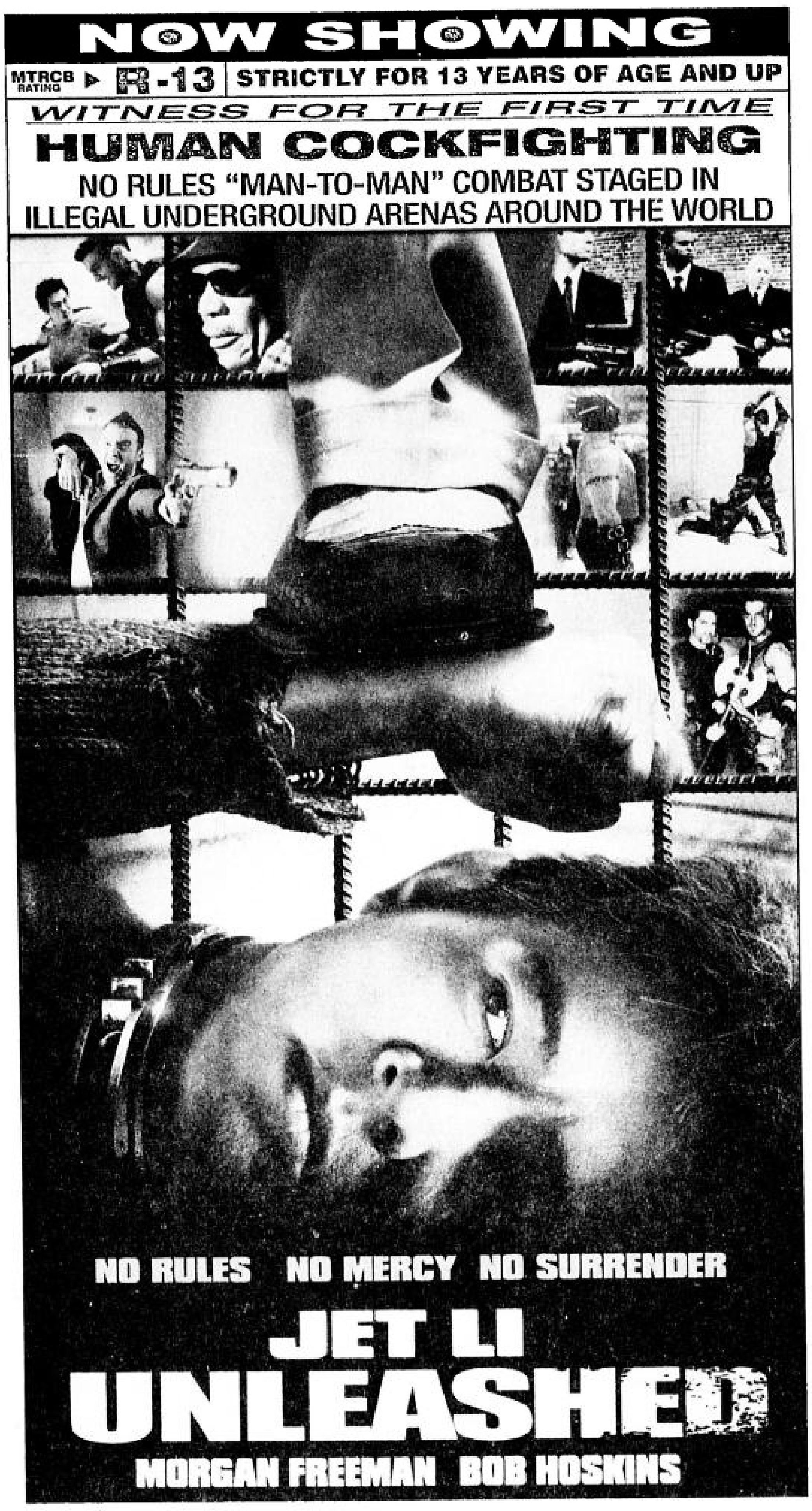
"Songs Rediscovered," **Jed Madela**'s album, is now No. 2 in Indonesia. From the No. 14 slot, it jumped up to No. 5 in only one week, and continued to move up to No. 2, beating **Jennifer Lopez**'s own album. At No. 1 is **Mariah Carey**'s latest compilation.

Jed will also be the Top Male Entertainer awardee for 2005 of the Asia Pacific Excellence Committee of the National Consumer's Commission at 6 p.m. on June 9 at the AFP Theater.



DID YOU KNOW...

THE VERY outspoken and very influential **Oprah Winfrey** was born illegitimate and poor, and survived sexual abuse, rape and the death of an infant she bore at age 14. "It's a wonder she's not off in a corner drooling," longtime friend **Gayle King** has said.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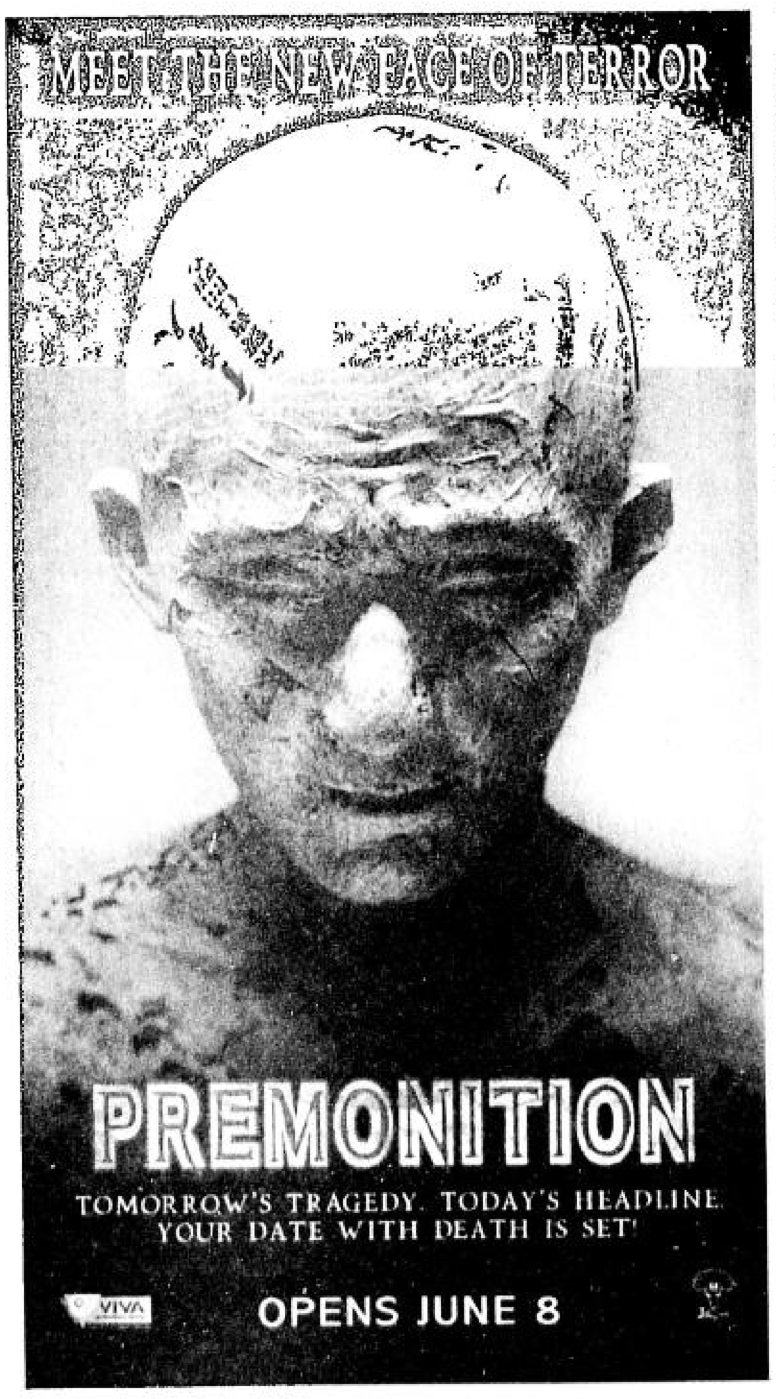
Mrs. Smith
OPENS JUNE 8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VIVA
OPENS JUNE 8

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 STAR WARS Episode III • THX
1:00 3:50 6:40 9:30

2 MADAGASCAR
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

3 STAR WARS Episode III
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

4 UNLEASHED
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 LA VISA LOCA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

6 HOUSE OF WAX
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 IN GOOD COMPANY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

9 BIKINI OPEN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 STAR WARS Episode III
10:30 1:25 4:20 7:10 10:00

2 BIKINI OPEN
10:30 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00

4 HOUSE OF WAX
10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:50

5 LA VISA LOCA
10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

6 UNLEASHED
10:55 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:50

7 MADAGASCAR
10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 MADAGASCAR
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

3 MADAGASCAR
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50

4 BIKINI OPEN
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

5 UNLEASHED
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

6 HOUSE OF WAX
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30 10:30

7 STAR WARS Episode III
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

8 LA VISA LOCA
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 STAR WARS Episode III
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25

2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25

3 LA VISA LOCA
10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

4 STAR WARS Episode III
1:50 4:50 7:50

5 HOUSE OF WAX
10:15 12:40 3:10 5:45 8:25

6 RESERVE

7 UNLEASHED
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25

8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 MADAGASCAR
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 UNLEASHED

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 LA VISA LOCA
2 UNLEASHED
3 STAR WARS Episode III
4 BOSO

CAINTA 240-4661

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 MADAGASCAR

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1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 MADAGASCAR
5 BIKINI OPEN

LIPA (043) 757-3884 (043) 312-5870

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 ONG BAK
3 IN GOOD COMPANY
4 LA VISA LOCA
5 THE WEDDING DATE

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 IN GOOD COMPANY
3 MADAGASCAR
4 BOSO
5 LA VISA LOCA

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 MADAGASCAR
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 IN GOOD COMPANY

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 LA VISA LOCA
2 STAR WARS Episode III
3 BIKINI OPEN
4 MADAGASCAR
5 UNLEASHED
6 HOUSE OF WAX

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 LA VISA LOCA
5 STAR WARS Episode III
6 MADAGASCAR

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 MADAGASCAR
2 STAR WARS Episode III
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 GUESS WHO

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 MADAGASCAR
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5 BIKINI OPEN
6 THE WEDDING DATE

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G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 UNLEASHED	2 SIN CITY	3 MADAGASCAR	4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 STAR WARS EP. 3	2 THE SHUTTER	3 THX SIN CITY GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 COACH CARTER	5 HOUSE OF WAX	6 MADAGASCAR	7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 STAR WARS EP. 3	2 SIN CITY		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX A LOT LIKE LOVE GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 COACH CARTER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MADAGASCAR GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SIN CITY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MADAGASCAR	2 STAR WARS EP. 3		
		3 A LOT LIKE LOVE	4 COACH CARTER	5 SIN CITY	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SIN CITY	2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME	3 MADAGASCAR	4 STAR WARS EP. 3

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"SMART, FUNNY AND EDGY! It's this generation's 'When Harry Met Sally.'"
— Jim Svejda, KNX / CBS RADIO

ashton kutcher amanda peet

a lot like Love

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

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Jericho Rosales a hit in Malaysia

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

ECHO denies rumors that he has reconciled with Cindy Kurleto.

ACTOR Jericho Rosales was in Kuala Lumpur recently to shoot his scenes for the Malaysian movie titled "Bilut," according to his manager, Allan Real.

Jericho is playing a Filipino who studied documentary filmmaking in a university in Brussels, Belgium. His lines will be in English, said Real, a handler from Star Magic, ABS-CBN's talent center.

Belgium next

The actor should be home this week. "Then he's going to Belgium to shoot more scenes," Real told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview.

Real said principal photography for "Bilut" started a while ago and that the producers had merely waited for Jericho's availability.

The actor has been busy shooting for Star Cinema's "Nasaan Ka Man" and taping for ABS-CBN's upcoming program, "Panday." Two other actors—a Thai and a Latin American—were considered for Jericho's role in "Bilut," Real said.

Jericho was picked, the manager said, "because he's really popular in Malaysia."

It is on account of his soap operas, "Pangako sa 'Yo" and "Sana'y Wala ng Wakas" that the actor has a strong fan base in Malaysia, Real noted.

Jericho, Kristine Hermosa and several other Filipino stars are regarded by Malaysians as exceptionally good-looking, according to a source that INQUIRER Entertainment talked to during a recent visit to KL.

"Bilut" is set for exhibition in Malaysia next year, and is intended for release in other Asian countries, Real said.

Three days before he left, Jericho met the entertainment press to talk about his new movie, "Nasaan Ka Man," which also stars Claudine Barretto and Diether Ocampo.

Jericho said the focus of the story is the love triangle formed by the central characters.

'Panday' update

The trailer suggests some sexiness, but Jericho hastened to point out that he doesn't get to show even his behind.

He made it clear, though, that his contract with ABS-CBN doesn't prohibit him from expos-

JERICHO/ A2-2

#1 FILM in AMERICA!

Sin City Seduces Crowds

Jessica Alba is NANCY

LOS ANGELES -- "Sin City" proved an irresistible temptation for audiences as the highly stylized comic-book adaptation led the May weekend box office with a $28.1 million debut and Disney owned MIRAMAX is predicting a $100m total North American boxoffice and another $100m from international.

Film critic's favorite, the action-packed "*Sin City*" is adapted from Frank Miller's bestselling comics set in a wicked town filled with tough guys and gorgeous dames. The movie's huge cast includes *Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke, Benicio Del Toro, Jessica Alba, Rosario Dawson, Clive Owen, Elijah Wood, Josh Hartnett, Michael Madsen, Alexis Bledel and Brittany Murphy.*

Director Robert Rodriguez (*Desperado, Once Upon A Time in Mexico)* had Quentin Tarantino (*Kill Bill*) and Frank Miller on the set as co-directors. The $65m film was shot with the actors against green-screen backgrounds, adding the jutting buildings, shadowy interiors and other backdrops later through sophisticated computer-generated imagery.

The movie starts largely in black and white and then splashes into color during major highlights. **SIN CITY** is a totally unique brand of entertainment never seen before on the screen. [WALL STREET JOURNAL]

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STAR WARS
EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH
STAR WARS EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH
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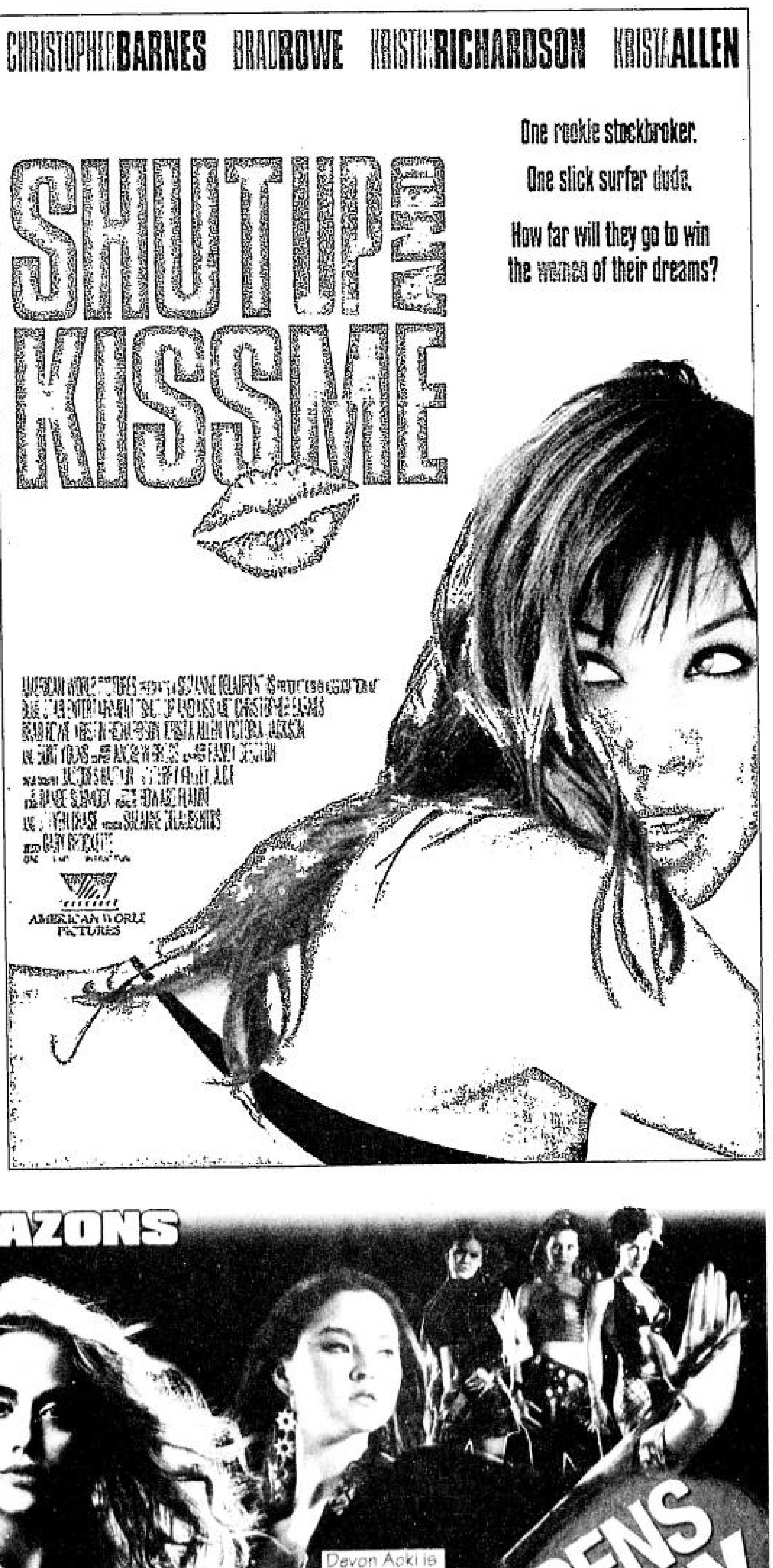
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How far will they go to win the women of their dreams?
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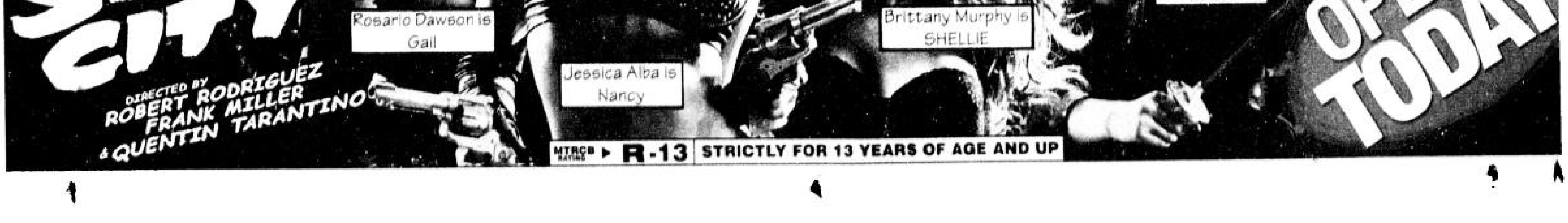
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B1

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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Turn to Lifestyle section E-3.

Naia 3 dispute settled; opening seen before Xmas

THE NINOY Aquino International Airport terminal 3 PDI PHOTO

By Clarissa S. Batino

TAKENAKA Corp. of Japan has agreed to complete the unfinished work at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 on terms favorable to the Philippine government, according to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Mendoza said he was confident that with the Japanese contractor ensuring the structural integrity of Naia 3, the modern airport terminal would be opened before Christmas.

It was originally set for commercial operations on June 21.

The Manila International Airport Authority and Takenaka agreed yesterday on the final terms of the contract to complete Naia 3, Mendoza said in an interview.

The Philippine government gave Takenaka until the end of May to decide whether or not it would finish the job. Otherwise, the government would hire another contractor and doing so could push back the opening of the terminal to the first quarter of 2006.

The Japanese contractor, which built international airports in Abu Dhabi, Colombo, Bali, Japan, Malaysia, Mombasa and Singa-

NAIA 3/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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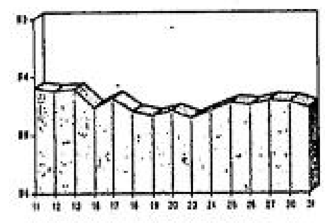

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As of 5 p.m., May 31, 2005

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As of 5 p.m., May 31, 2005

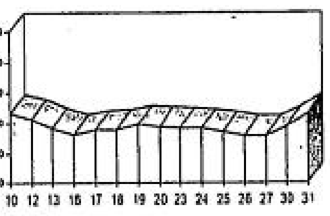
GOLD: $418.30-418.80

per ounce Hong Kong, May 27, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 2.27% higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARE prices closed 2.27 percent higher in heavy trade yesterday as investors continued to buy in response to gross domestic product data which pointed to a resilient economy, dealers said.

They said investors took the market's recent weakness as an opportunity to accumulate stocks seen as undervalued at current levels, ignoring a Senate investigation into the alleged involvement of President Gloria Arroyo's husband, son and brother-in-law in an illegal numbers protection racket.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 42.77 points to 1,929.38. It traded between 1,886.61 and 1,934.10.

Turnover reached 632.4 million shares worth P1.57 billion.

The broader all-shares index rose 21.88 points to 1,174.54.

Gainers beat losers 65 to 13, with 41 stocks ending unchanged.

"They (investors) have seen that the government is quite serious in addressing its fiscal problems, and this has perked up market activity," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities. *AFP*

Housing plan gets $60-M loans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MULTILATERAL institutions International Finance Corp. (IFC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have jointly agreed to extend about P3.2 billion ($60 million) in loans to a special-purpose entity led by Deutsche Bank to help clean up the government's bad housing loans.

The new firm, to be called Balikatan Housing Inc., will buy the bad loans of state housing agency National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC).

NHMFC earlier sold highly delinquent loans worth P13.5 billion to Deutsche Bank Real Estate Global Opportunities Fund IB (DBGO) at a discounted price of P5.12 billion.

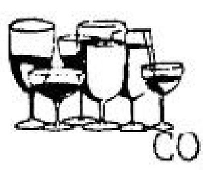
DBGO's bid, which NHMFC said was the best it got last year, was within the government's floor price of 38 percent of the total loan portfolio value.

Balikatan, which will buy NHMFC's 55,000

HOUSING/ B6

WHAT'S INSIDE

SMC close to getting control of NatFoods
/B6



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SMIC declares cash dividend

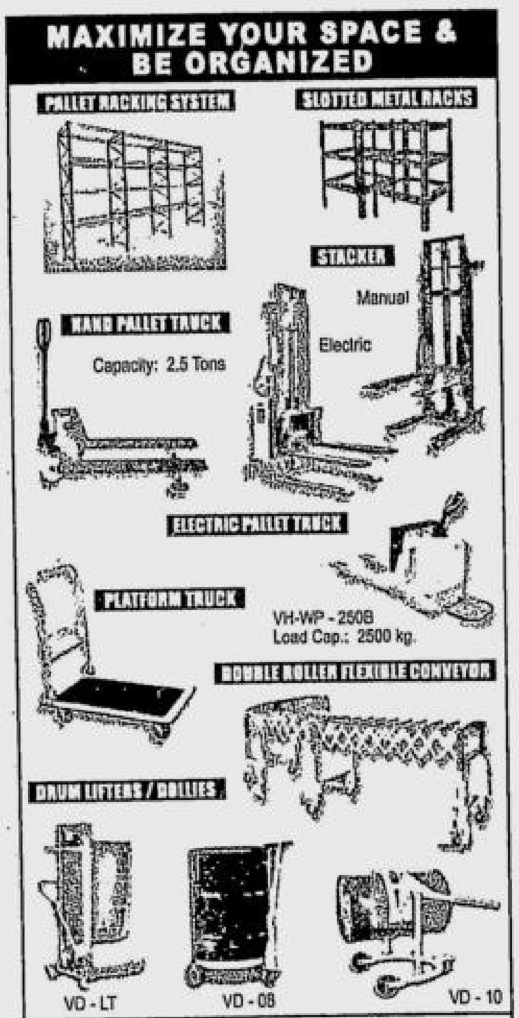
By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM Investments Corp., the holding company of the Sy family, yesterday declared cash dividend amounting to P1.85 billion.

Shareholders on record as of June 14 can collect receive their cash dividends, equivalent to P3.50 per share, on June 20.

SMIC's initial public offering last March 22 was the biggest in the local stock market history. It raised P28.75 billion from the 115 million shares sold during the maiden offer.

SMIC is engaged in four core businesses, through subsidiaries, namely: shopping malls (SM Prime Holdings Inc.), retail merchandising (SM Department Stores), financial services (Banco de Oro Universal Bank, China Banking Corp.), and real estate development and tourism (SM Development Corp., Highlands Prime Inc.).



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JG Summit earmarks ₱585M for bottle, packaging plants

By Abigail L. Ho

SANTOS

CFC Clubhouse Properties Inc., a subsidiary of JG Summit Holdings Inc., will invest P585 million in new plants that will manufacture PET bottles and printed flexible packaging materials to meet the growing needs of sister firm Universal Robina Corp.

The P290-million PET bottle manufacturing project will employ the 1-step technology of Italy's Sipa Plastic Packaging Systems because of its cost-effectivity and flexibility.

This technology can use various types of plastic raw materials to produce a wide array of complex bottle shapes, the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday said in a statement.

PET bottles are used for mineral water and other beverages, including softdrinks and juices.

CFC is earmarking another P295 million for the manufacture of printed flexible packaging materials primarily for URC.

At present, URC imports printed and laminated ready-to-use wrappers from Indonesia and Vietnam. These materials are used for the packaging of snack foods, candies, chocolates and biscuits.

Both projects will be housed inside the JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. compound in Barangay Pinamucan, Batangas City. The two plants will employ a total of 143 workers.

Trade Secretary Juan Santos said the DTI had identified the food industry as one of the top priorities for development in building the country's export base.

"Investments in packaging and labeling by companies such as CFC will increase the competitiveness of the food sector in penetrating the international market," he said.

Apart from the food and beverage business, CFC parent firm JG Summit also has interests in air transportation, banking, hotels and shopping malls, petrochemicals, power generation, publishing, real estate and property development, telecommunications and textiles.

The conglomerate has identified its food manufacturing interest as one of the pillars of its business. JG Summit's regionalization plan has been realized via the export of these products and the production of the same in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and China.

Lifetime told to continue paying planholders' claims

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission told Lifetime Plans Inc., a subsidiary of troubled pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc., that it could continue paying planholders' claims using its trust fund.

The SEC recently cancelled Lifetime's certificate of incorporation, effectively dissolving the company and paving the way for Lifetime planholders to be transferred back to Pacific Plans.

Lifetime, which has more than 400,000 planholders, sells fixed value education, memorial and pension plans.

Lifetime asked the SEC to reconsider its revocation order saying it was a drastic move that could adversely affect its sales agents and planholders.

The SEC met with the management of Lifetime last Friday, telling them that in spite of the revocation order, disbursements could still be made from Lifetime's trust fund to satisfy the legitimate claims of planholders.

In the same meeting, the agents were told to advise their clients to continue paying their premiums as scheduled.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Meralco defers last phase of ₱30-B refund

WEAK electricity sales in the first five months of the year has prompted the Manila Electric Co. to push back to July and October the two-tranche implementation of the last phase of its P30-billion refund scheme.

Meralco refund management task force head Leonardo Mabale said that from January, phase 4a of the refund would commence in July, while phase 4b will start in October instead of July.

The deferment, he said, would provide some relief to Meralco in terms of cash flow.

"We project that there will be no significant rebound in our electricity sales until the end of the year. Because of this and the rate under-recoveries, managing cash flows while servicing the refund will be a challenge," he said in a statement yesterday.

While getting some relief from the deferment, he said Meralco would have to complete phase 4a of the refund within 18 months as prescribed by the Energy Regulatory Commission, 18 months shorter than the company's proposed 36-month time frame.

He explained that when Meralco accepted the ERC's 18-month prescription, this was based on financial projections for 2005, which were not met due to weaker-than-projected electricity sales from January to May.

This meant that while the power distributor would be able to complete phase 4a within 18 months, its implementation had to be pushed back by half a year, he said.

Abigail L. Ho

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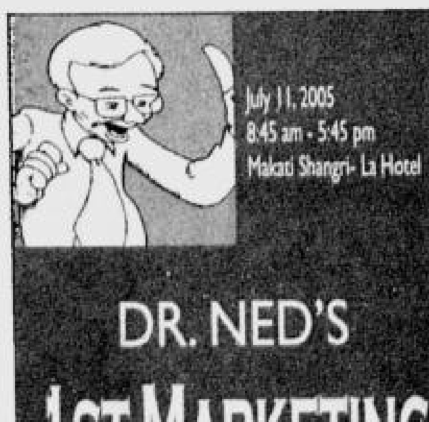

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Dr. Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the best-selling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr. Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

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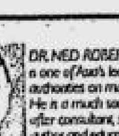

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the stockholders of INTERPHIL LABORATORIES, INC. will be held at the Grand Ballroom, The Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club, Inc., Southwoods Avenue, Carmona, Cavite on June 22, 2005 at 3:00 P.M.

The Agenda for the meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to order;
2. Certification by the Corporate Secretary on the sending of notices and existence of a quorum;
3. Reading and approval of minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting;
4. Report of the President;
5. Approval of the Financial Statements for the calendar year ended December 31, 2004;
6. Ratification by a majority vote of the stockholders, of actions taken by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the last annual meeting of the stockholders;
7. Election of Directors;
8. Appointment of External Auditor;
9. Amendment of the Company's By-Laws to include the procedure for the nomination and election of Directors;
10. Transactions of such other matters as may properly come before the meeting;
11. Other matters
12. Adjournment

If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to be represented thereat, you may submit your proxy to the Corporate Secretary at the Third Floor, Zuellig Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, on or before June 15, 2005, together with a board resolution authorizing your representative, in case of corporate stockholders. Proxies received after June 15, 2005 shall not be recognized for the meeting.

Registration starts at 2:00 P.M. Only stockholders of record as of May 10, 2005 are entitled to vote and be voted during the meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have available some form of identifications such as your Community Tax Certificate, Passport or Driver's License.

Canlubang, Laguna, May 6, 2005.

ANA L. A. PERALTA
Corporate Secretary

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Battle of Audis

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BROTHERS Peter and Paul Rodriguez seem to have thrown a monkey wrench to the plan of stockbroker/insurance magnate Robert Coyiuto Jr. to call himself the undisputed Audi king of the Philippines.

Up until Sunday, the Rodriguezes have been running newspaper advertisements claiming that their Auto Prominence is still the "sole and exclusive Philippine distributor" of the Teutonic muscle machines.

As if to cock a snook on Coyiuto, Auto Prominence even ran its ad side-by-side with Coyiuto's PGA Cars'.

Uncharacteristically, the imperious Coyiuto has had to content with describing his PGA Cars as an "authorized importer and distributor" despite the Germans now appointing him—or is it his soft-spoken brother Mike—as their fair-haired boy this side of the Pacific.

According to Audi lawyer Jose "Bong" Bernas, the Germans have formally informed the Rodriguezes about the cessation of Auto Prominence as an authorized distributor effective end of March 2005 but somehow the brothers obtained a status quo order from a Pangasinan Regional Trial Court judge.

Somehow, Rodriguez counsel Rainier Madrid managed to persuade Judge Jules Mejia that Audi's corporate office is in the seaside "city" of Alaminos within the shuttered Proton Pilipinas assembly plant and that, more important, Audi's sole distributorship agreement with Auto Prominence will not expire until 2008.

In his order, Judge Mejia directed the Ingolstadt headquarters of Audi to maintain the "continuing sale and supply of Audi cars" to Auto Prominence. The judge also issued a blanket cease-and-desist order prohibiting the German car company from "carrying on any business matter or relationship with any third party anywhere in the Philippines."

Notwithstanding the sweeping court order,

COCKTALES/ B4

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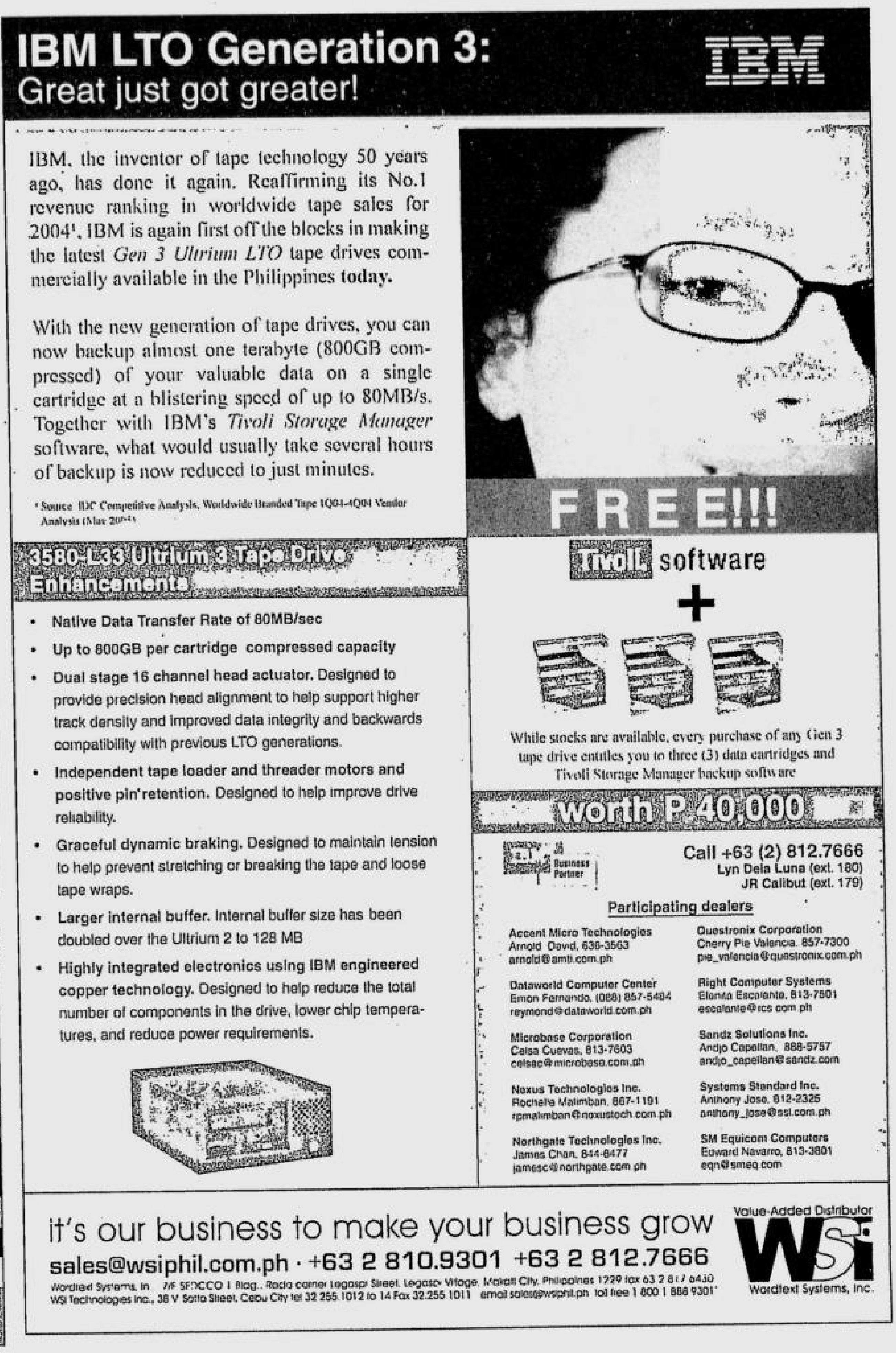
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[1] Source IDC Competitive Analysis, Worldwide Branded Tape 1Q04-4Q04 Vendor Analysis (May 2005)

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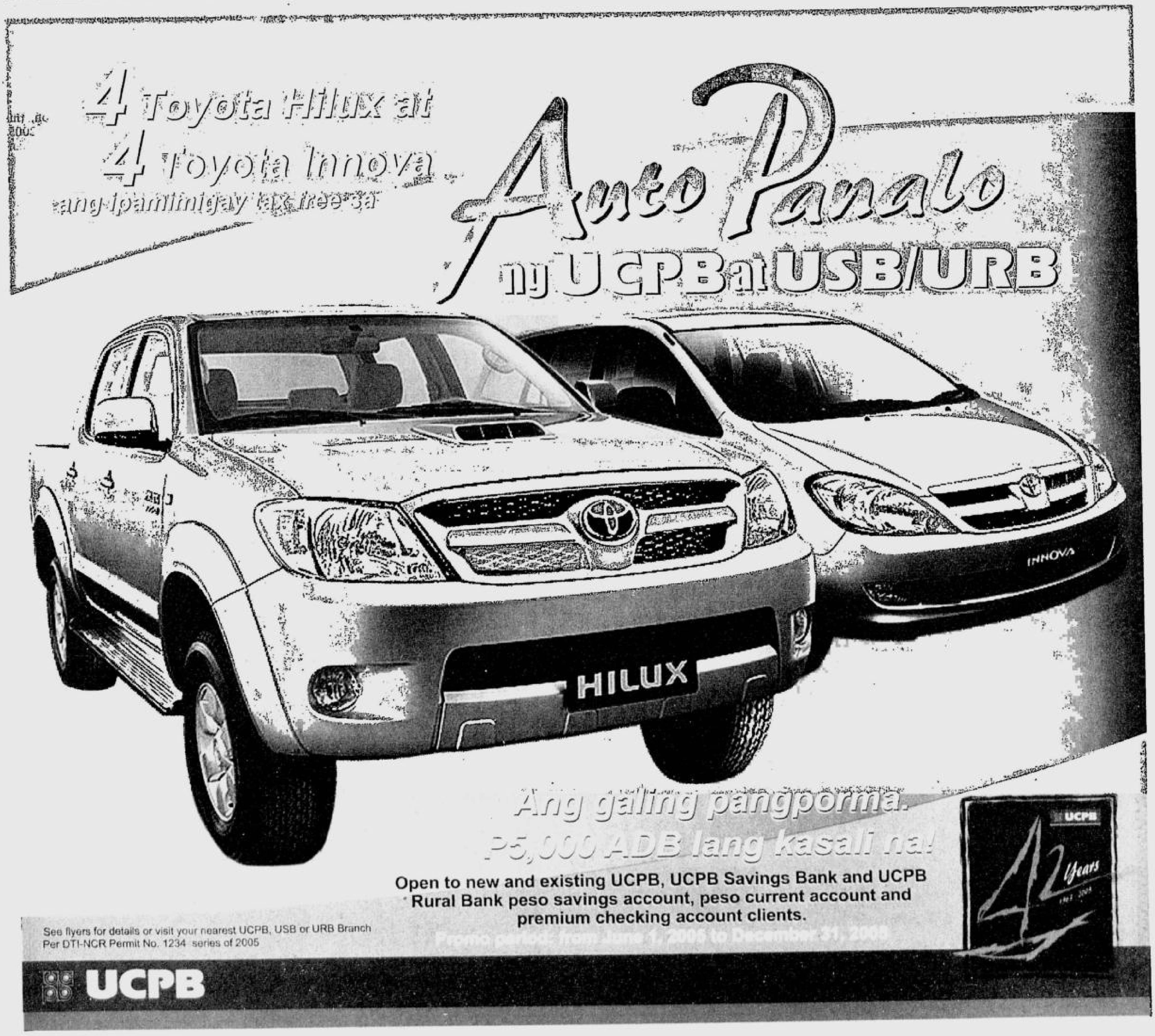
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Fight for minority rights, GSIS, SSS told

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has urged pension fund managers Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System to follow the lead of US-based California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) in exercising good corporate governance.

In particular, the DOF wants the GSIS and the SSS to take the lead in establishing the proposed Minority Shareholders Association, which will protect the interest of minority shareholders of publicly listed companies.

"The GSIS and the SSS should follow the lead of CalPERS, and become institutions that will serve as catalysts for change," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in an interview.

Purisima stressed the need to give minority shareholders the right to participate in the decision-making process in listed corporations.

He said CalPERS followed a strict evaluation process in deciding where to invest its funds, to make sure that its money was invested only in companies that adhered to good corporate governance.

"Both the SSS and the GSIS represent minority shareholdings in certain companies, so they should make sure the interest of minority shareholders is not trampled upon," Purisima said.

The two pension funds have minority shareholdings in listed firms such as food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp, Manila Electric Co. and Equitable-PCI bank.

Their stakes in listed companies form part of the pension funds' investment portfolios.

The finance chief said had proposed the idea to GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia and SSS president Corazon dela Paz.

The GSIS earlier said it was looking at adopting the corporate practice of CalPERS, not only in terms of evaluating companies to invest in but also in expanding its investment portfolio.

GSIS executive vice president Reynaldo Palmiery earlier said the GSIS was now scouting for a financial advisor that would help the pension fund expand its investment portfolio, to include offshore investments.

Cocktales

From page B3

Auto Prominence has been effectively cut off from the so-called Gecko computerized diagnostic system in Germany, without which the Audis could not be serviced, according to the industry grapevine.

In addition, Judge Mejia's order effectively could not effectively be enforced since Audi itself does not directly conduct business in the Philippines as their cars and parts are purchased through a Philippine importer, apparently now a Coyiuto company.

Despite their dealership being sustained by a legal tether, the Rodriguezes' apparently still have access to "brand new" Audis, as their ads trumpet. The Germans have apparently decided to maintain their good cop-bad cop relationship with the Rodriguezes by keeping the Volkswagen dealership with the Cebuano brothers.

The Audi battle has become favorite clubhouse chatter among the Chinoy group in the Manila Golf Club, especially after a group of visiting German Audi executives recently descended on the club grounds complete with a contingent of armed bodyguards, a breach of protocol in the supposedly gentlemen's club.

But that's another story.

Money-go-round

- THE PHILIPPINE pavilion in the ongoing Aichi Expo in Japan won the gold prize for the "Nature's Wisdom Award," besting Morocco and New Zealand and other countries in the one-module category.

Designed by architect Ed Calma, the coconut-inspired pavilion received funding support from the various Philippine government agencies as well as Mitachi, a Nagoya-based electronics company.

- ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Michael Defensor was spotted inside the new Sands casino in Macau over the weekend.

Heard through the grapevine

THE BOARDROOM shakeup in RCBC Securities is still far from resolved, with one of its directors, former Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., being the latest to leave the Yuchengco-owned stock brokerage firm.

The instability has already sent fault lines down the executive ranks.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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Hotel exec joins SBMA

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JOHN Patrick Gregorio has resigned as president of Waterfront Philippines Inc. to join the government as director-general for Subic and Clark.

Gregorio, 37, said he accepted the invitation of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chair Francisco Licuanan III to join the latter in organizing projects to promote tourism in the Subic-Clark zone.

"I've been in this industry for the past 19 years, it is time to help government," Gregorio told the INQUIRER.

Gregorio hails from the University of the Philippines' Asian Institute of Tourism.

He started as a marketing officer in 1988 at the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp.

By 2000, he was general manager of Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao after the Gatchalians bought it from the Ayala group.

He was promoted to chief operating officer of the Waterfront Hotels and Casinos the following year.

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Reference : 1. Libecco J. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004; 5(4): 933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient.
02-2006-PPC-05-PH-4003-AD

Was it the chauffeur or the papaitan?

We've never figured it out really, what worked better in the end, but we're thankful anyway.

Mrs. Gwen Roces had always been accompanied by her husband to the bank. He'd open the door for her, see her through, explain what the forms were for, tell her where to sign. And she'd always be listening cheerfully, her pen flashing in compliance. She was glad, we guessed, to have someone sorting out all the forms and procedures for her.

But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish.) She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)

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ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM (ATSC) CORPORATION

(formerly William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc.)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

PLACE: Quezon B & C Function Rooms, Makati Shangri-La,
Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City
DATE: June 17, 2005
TIME: 2:30 P.M.

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Aboitiz Transport System (ATSC) Corporation (the "Company"), formerly William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc., which will be held on June 17, 2005 at Quezon B & C Function Rooms, Makati Shangri-La Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City at 2:30 P.M. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice
3. Determination and Declaration of Quorum
4. Approval of Minutes of the Stockholders' Meeting held on June 28, 2004
5. Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2004
6. Election of the Board of Directors
7. Appointment of External Auditor
8. Investment in Zoom-in-Package, Inc.
9. Approval for the acquisition of 100% of Aboitiz One, Inc. ("A-One"), 62.5% of Aboitiz Jebsen Bulk Transport Corp. ("Abojeb"), 62.5% of Aboitiz Jebsen Manpower Solutions, Inc. ("AJMSI"), 62.5% of Jebsen Maritime Inc ("JMI"), and 50% of Jebsen Management (BVI) Limited ("JMBVI") through a share swap transaction
10. Amendments to the Second and Seventh Articles of Incorporation Articles on the Purpose of Corporation and the Increase of Authorized Capital Stock (see Annex "A" for summary of amendments proposed)
11. Approval for certain amendments to the Company's By-laws (see Annex "B" for summary of amendments proposed)
12. Delegation to the Board of the power to amend or repeal any by-laws or adopt new by-laws
13. Approval and Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management for the period covering 23 April 2004 to 10 May 2005
14. Such Other Matters as may properly come before it
15. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record in the books of the Company at the close of business on May 16, 2005 will be entitled to vote at said stockholders' meeting.

Manila, Philippines, May 10, 2005.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
By:
Tiu, Helen Go
HELEN G. TIU
Corporate Secretary

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Annex "A"

Summary of Proposed Amendments to ATSC Articles of Incorporation

Section & Article No.	Summary Description of Proposed Amendment
Second Article	• To include acts and things "incidental" to the accomplishment of the primary purpose as part of the primary purpose; • To add the following secondary purposes: To acquire, own and use for investment or otherwise, and to sell, transfer, lease, mortgage, pledge, and otherwise operate, enjoy and dispose of personal properties of every kind and description and wherever situated, as and to the extent permitted by law, including securities in corporations engaged in the following: (a) the business of air and land transportation such as but not limited to transporting any and all kinds of goods, cargoes, passengers, of air and land freight forwarding, of acting as a courier for mails, letters, pouches, delivery and transfer of money remittances and its equivalent, cargo and personal effects of all kinds, domestic and international; (b) the business of warehousing and distribution; of making advances or loans secured by mortgage of or pledge or deposit warehouse receipts for the goods, wares, or merchandise stored in said corporation, or otherwise; (c) the business of container leasing and container yard management and operations; (d) the business of trucking, container handling and trailer leasing; (e) the business of providing or furnishing any and all forms or types of services and facilities relating to placement or employment or crewing; the business of contracting, enlisting, recruiting Filipino professionals, and skilled and unskilled workers for overseas work to maintain and operate an information bureau; to carry on and conduct a general agency business; and/or (f) the business of establishing, maintaining and operating domestic and international pick-up and delivery service by air, land and sea freight of any kind and nature wherever bound including storage, brokerage, forwarding, transportation and/or allied services and includes customizing inventory and cost management solutions to support enterprises through an e-commerce ready system, and while the owner, holder or possessor of such securities, to exercise any and all rights, powers and privileges of ownership or any other interest therein; Provided it shall not act as an investment bank or investment company or as a stockbroker or dealer of securities or as a manager of fund portfolios or similar assets of such managed entities."
Seventh Article	• To increase the authorized capital stock from P2,450,383,600.00 divided into 2,375,000,000 common shares with a par value of P1.00 per share and 75,383,600 redeemable preferred shares with a par value of P1.00 per share to P4,074,908,000.00 divided into 4,000,000,000 common shares with a par value of P1.00 per share and, 74,908,000 redeemable preferred shares with a par value of P1.00 per share."

Annex "B"

Summary of Proposed Amendments to ATSC By-laws

Section & Article No.	Summary Description of Proposed Amendments
Section 1, Article II (Regular Annual Meetings)	• To change the annual stockholders' meeting date from "last Friday of April" to "fourth Thursday of May" • To change other possible venues for annual stockholders' meeting from "Metropolitan Manila" to "other places in the city where the principal office of the corporation is located"
Section 2, Article II (Notice of Regular Annual Meetings)	• To include "electronic mail" and "publication in a newspaper of general circulation" as additional allowable modes of sending notices of regular annual meetings
Section 4, Article II (Notice of Special Meetings)	• To include "electronic mail" as an additional allowable mode of sending notices of special meetings of stockholders
Section 5, Article II (Place of Meetings)	• To change other possible venues for annual stockholders' meeting from "Metropolitan Manila" to "such other places in the city where the principal office of the corporation is located"
Section 10, Article II (Fixing Date for Determination of Stockholders of Record)	• To remove "shall not be more than sixty (60) days" before the date of the stockholders meeting as a parameter for fixing the record date
Section 3, Article III (Qualifications)	• To amend the director nomination process (a) to allow the Board to fix a different deadline for the submission of nominees for directors other than independent directors and (b) to reconcile the nomination process (for independent directors) with SRC Rule 38 as the same may be amended from time to time
Section 6, Article III (Notice of Meeting)	• To include "electronic mail" as an additional allowable mode of sending notices for board meetings
Section 8, Article III (Conduct of Meeting)	• To provide for the Vice-Chairman to preside at a board meeting should the Chairman be absent and for the President to preside in the board meeting in the event both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent • To provide for the Assistant Secretary to act as the secretary of the meeting and in the absence of both the Corporate Secretary and the Assistant Secretary, for the Chairman to appoint a secretary of the meeting
Section 1, Article IV (Election, Term of Office and Qualifications)	• To provide for the election of "Vice Presidents" and an "Assistant Secretary" at the organizational board meeting • To require the Assistant Secretary to also be a resident and citizen of the Philippines
Section 6, Article IV (Secretary & Assistant Secretary)	• To add the position of "Assistant Secretary" and require said Assistant Secretary to perform the duties of the Secretary in the latter's absence. • To re-define the responsibility of the Secretary with respect to the stock and transfer book, the stock certificates and the stock certificate book.
Section 7, Article IV (Vice Presidents)	• To provide for the positions of "Vice-President" and identify the Vice-President's duties as those prescribed by the Board
Section 8, Article IV (Compensation)	• To correct Section "7" to "8" in light of the addition of the above-described Section 7

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Aboitiz Transport System Corporation

SMC close to getting control of NatFoods

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AUSTRALIAN dairy firm National Foods Ltd. has urged its shareholders to accept the A$1.9-billion takeover bid of Philippine food and beverage giant, San Miguel Corp.

In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, National Foods chair David Crawford said shareholders holding a combined 80.1 percent of the company's shares have accepted SMC's offer.

He also said the board of National Foods had unanimously recommended that shareholders accept SMC's unconditional offer after all directors gave their approval.

Last May 26, SMC said it secured majority control of National Foods.

Shareholders who accept SMC's offer will receive their payment within 21 days from acceptance.

Shareholders who choose not to accept SMC's offer will either become minority shareholders or have their shares later acquired by SMC, if it acquires more than 90 percent of National Foods.

SMC's offer is scheduled to close at 7 p.m. on June 10.

New Zealand's largest dairy exporter, Fonterra Cooperative Group, also agreed to sell its 19-percent stake in National Foods to SMC.

"We look forward to completing this acquisition over the next few weeks," SMC president Ramon Ang said.

"National Foods is an excellent business, having consistently delivered strong earnings and growth in the internationally competitive Australian dairy sector. We consider Australia an important strategic operating base from which to expand into the Asia-Pacific region," Ang added.

SMC, which generated revenues of A$4.2 billion in 2004, launched a takeover bid for National Foods in late December 2004.

The company has two other businesses in Australia - premium brewer J. Boag and Son, a wholly owned subsidiary, and leading fruit juice company Berri Ltd., where it has a majority stake.

"The addition of National Foods to our Australian businesses creates a very powerful food and beverage platform for San Miguel in the Australian and Asian markets," Ang added.

Naia 3 . . .

From page B1

pore, agreed to complete the controversial Naia Terminal 3 at a much lower cost than what Takenaka demanded, Mendoza said.

Part of the unfinished work would be the extension of the runway. The MIAA had decided to extend the runway from its current length of 1,998 meters to give bigger aircraft more room to maneuver.

"We have been negotiating with Takenaka so that all the defects and technical issues such as those pertaining to structural integrity could be properly addressed," MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi said.

Mendoza declined to disclose the amount as the completion cost was confidential.

Other sources said the foreign contractor agreed to cut its asking price by more than 50 percent from $106 million. A limited indemnity provision was also acceptable to the Japanese firm, they said.

The Philippine government had provided the "limited indemnity" on the contract with Takenaka, according to the sources.

A source said the transport chief was instrumental in negotiating firmly with Takaneka so it would agree to the government's terms.

Another source said Mendoza showed the Japanese negotiators his tough side, reminiscent of his days as head of the Philippine National Police. The Philippine government took over the Naia 3 late last year and promised to operate the facility in six months or by June 21.

What became contentious was that the Japanese contractor sought an indemnity provision from the Arroyo administration, which in effect would protect it from any lawsuit that may be filed by Philippine International Air Terminals Co. or Piatco.

Takenaka was contracted by Piatco to help build Naia 3. Piatco and its German partner Fraport Inc. have pending arbitration cases against the Philippine government over the nullification of their Naia 3 contract.

The international arbitration court in Washington, according to sources, would soon decide on the case filed by Fraport.

So far, only four of the more than 30 airline companies operating here have agreed to move to Naia 3. These are Northwest Airlines, Korean Airlines, Eva Air and China Airlines.

Philippine Airlines, according to Mendoza, had agreed in principle to move although PAL officials have been insisting that the flag carrier would not transfer if the MIAA would increase the fees.

Terminal 3 is built to handle 13 million passengers each year as against the 4.5 million of Terminal 1 and 2.5 million of Termina. 2.

The new terminal has 140 check-in counters on five islands against 84 of Naia 1 and 40 of Naia 2. Terminal 3 has nine baggage carousels and 120 immigration counters against six and 82 of the old terminal and two and 25 of Naia 2.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 31, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	33	30	33	3,408,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	49	48.5	48.5	2,792,900
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	700,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	52.5	50	52	405,300
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29	29.5	1,579,800
Philippine National Bank	33.5	35	33.5	35	198,600
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	29	29.5	33,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28.5	28	28.5	101,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2420	2450	2420	2450	1,780
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	94,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	152	152	152	152	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1685	1695	1685	1695	1,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	39,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.1	1.02	1.1	11,368,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	825	825	820	820	119,080
Ipeople Inc.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.45	155,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.2	3,209,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1470	1500	1470	1480	170,520
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.71	1,870,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	35,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16	15.75	15.75	21,300
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	23	22	22	844,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.3	6	6.3	8,827,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	1,431,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	303,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5	983,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	200,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	3,959,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	250,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.4	1,794,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	40,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	9,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	663,700
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	59	58	59	223,200
San Miguel Corp. B	86	90.5	86	90.5	733,600
Universal Robina Corp.	13	13	13	13	70,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	59,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	12,000,000
Ayala Corp.	340	375	340	375	705,970
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	250,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.95	4.8	4.95	1,885,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.03	12,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2	2	2	66,000
APC Group Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	130,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	2,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.94	1	0.94	1	13,430,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	2,870,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7	4,496,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	570,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8.3	8	8.1	527,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	46	45	46	491,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.08	0.0825	1,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	35,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	65,000
Medco Holdings	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.38	6,046,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.38	22,310,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	180,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	250,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	249	250	249	250	313,430
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	6,490,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	2,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.1	0.0925	0.1	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	5,591,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.6	9	6.6	6.6	7,700
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.8	0.8	230,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.26	1,530,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	19,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.5	11.5	11	11	554,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.9	7.5	7.7	11,177,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	130,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,180,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.19	0.195	930,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.14	0.17	420,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	5,510,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	11,847,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	550,000
City & Land Developers	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	13,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	146,000
SM Development Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.56	1.56	130,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.6	9,206,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	152,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.4	4.4	4.25	4.35	87,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	5,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.34	11,460,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	82,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	21,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	46,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.87	0.89	0.87	0.88	1,360,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.99	1.02	0.99	1.02	3,410,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	30.5	33.5	30.5	33	1,222,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Sinophil Corp	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	5,650,000

CURRENCIES

May 31, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.794849376	1.000000	54.3670
Japan	Yen	0.007363	0.009264	0.5037
United Kingdom	Pound	1.450362	1.824700	99.2035
Hongkong	Dollar	0.102209	0.128589	6.9910
Switzerland	Franc	0.646009	0.812744	44.1865
Canada	Dollar	0.634155	0.797830	43.3756
Singapore	Dollar	0.479027	0.602664	32.7650
Australia	Dollar	0.606246	0.762718	41.4667
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.108466	2.652661	144.2172
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.21196	0.266667	14.4979
Brunei	Dollar	0.477588	0.600853	32.6666
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019694	0.024777	1.3471
UAE	Dirham	0.216421	0.272279	14.8030
Euro	Euro	1	1.258100	68.3991
Argentina	Peso	0.27575	0.346921	18.8611
Brazil	REAL	0.331879	0.417537	22.7002
Denmark	Kroner	0.134361	0.169039	9.1901
India	Rupee	0.018273	0.022989	1.2498
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209182	0.263172	14.3079
Mexico	New Peso	0.073086	0.091950	4.9990
New Zealand	Dollar	0.567425	0.713878	38.8114
Norway	Kroner	0.125343	0.157694	8.5733
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013467	0.016943	0.9211
South Africa	Rand	0.121222	0.152509	8.2915
Korea	Won	0.000795	0.001000	0.0544
Sweden	Kroner	0.108789	0.136868	7.4411
Syria	Pound	0.015312	0.019264	1.0473
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025403	0.031959	1.7375
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.00037	0.000466	0.0253

Housing plan gets . . .

From page B1

mortgages, will be 51-percent owned by DBGO and the balance of 49 percent to be held by NHMFC.

NHMFC's highly delinquent loans to be sold to Balikatan represent about 32 percent of the state housing agency's P42-billion loan portfolio.

"We believe the financial sector is not in a position to lend if it is burdened with bad loans. They tend to shy away from new loans. By helping banks to get rid of non-performing loans, they can start lending again," William Willms, an ADB principal structured finance specialist, said Monday night.

IFC and ADB had each agreed to lend $30 million to Balikatan. IFC country manager Vipul Bhagat said the World Bank's private sector arm would also assume a 5-percent economic stake in Balikatan.

ADB would also acquire a 10-percent stake in Bahay Financial Services Inc., a loan servicing company that will be established by DBGO to restructure and service the bad loans on behalf of Balikatan Housing, Inc.

PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

Bank executive trades carbon credits to save environment

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

GUARIN JOSEPH AGCAOILI

REY Guarin earns a living selling carbon. Carbon credits, that is. According to the PEW Center on Global Climate Change, 1998, 2001 and 2002 were the hottest years ever recorded in history. This is the effect of global warming, a term we often read about in our science textbooks and journals and a phenomenon we are currently experiencing.

Another term that has surfaced is climate change. The frequent floods and droughts we experience are broadly known as climate change all brought about by greenhouse gas emissions from the use of fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal. The main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, forms a blanket over the atmosphere causing radiant heat from the sun to be trapped thus causing the greenhouse effect. If this concern is not addressed, the earth's biodiversity and ecosystem will continuously be threatened until the only place we know as home will no longer be inhabitable. It is a thought that makes one shudder but out of this alarming issue came a solution that has become an industry known as the carbon market.

As senior assistant vice president for Climate Change Program and Special Projects of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Rey Guarin is in the center of the emerging carbon market. According to Guarin, the carbon market can be considered as an economic solution on how to slow down global warming that causes climate change. In the carbon market, Guarin turns selling and buying carbon credits into a business.

Trading carbon credits

The buzz in Wall Street is that carbon credits is expected to be the largest trading commodity in history. But how does one actually exchange credits and save the environment at the same time? In an effort to reduce CO2 emissions, the Kyoto Protocol (KP), an international treaty formed early this year, developed the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). According to Guarin, not only is the CDM a cost effective compliance in reducing green house gas (GHG) emissions, it is also a unique tool for sustainable development by attracting and hosting climate friendly investments among developing countries like the Philippines.

The idea behind CDM is to create emissions trading or carbon credit trading. Simply put, when a company that emits carbon dioxide into the air needs to reduce those emissions, this company may buy a carbon credit from another company that engages in a practice that removes carbon from the atmosphere on a long-term basis. A carbon credit is defined as the amount of greenhouse gas sent to the atmosphere or the amount of carbon removed. A financial asset according to Guarin, carbon credit is measured in terms of Carbon Tons Equivalent per Unit. "The Carbon Credit's underlying value is the amount of emissions avoided or sequestered by way of doing an emissions mitigation project (i.e. renewable energy, energy efficiency) or a carbon sequestration project (i.e. reforestation or afforestation)," explains Guarin in an article he wrote for the Finance Executive of the Phili ppines journal.

Mitigation and adaptation

Having designed and developed several of DBP's special projects and financial products, Guarin wanted to dabble into other areas of the industry and offered his services for the bank's new program, Sustainable Logistics Development Program (SLDP). However, management had bigger and better plans for his expertise. Carbon credit trading was an uncommon idea then, and the banker was asked to develop "something new" in relation to the Clean Development Mechanism. "After conducting research, attending capacity building workshops on CDM, along with meeting with local and foreign CDM stakeholders, that "something," eventually became the development of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Program for the bank," he recalls.

After a series of refinements, the Climate Change Program and Special Projects of DBP, under Guarin's leadership, introduced the service facility called the Carbon Investment Banking, a tool for developing CDM projects. Carbon Investment Banking provides carbon advisory, carbon finance or finance arrangement services for potential CDM project proponents (sell side) and prospective carbon buyers and investors (buy side).

The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Program was developed by DBP as early as 2003 and launched early last year. According to the AVP, the program is the first of its kind for a development bank from a developing country.

"Our team's objective is to help develop CDM projects, generate Carbon Emission Reduction (CER) credits for sale to developed countries, and help promote and contribute to Philippine sustainable development." Aside from the mitigation and adaptation program, Guarin also handles advocacy and awareness campaigns, initiates institutional capacity building and facilitates development of CDM-Eligible Projects and trading of CERs in the global carbon markets.

Expertise and the environment

Guarin's job as climate change program head requires several years (16 years to be exact) of experience as a development banker and local capital market generalist. Aside from the experience, the responsibility necessitates genuine interest and concern for the environment. "One ought to have an intimate relationship with the environment together with a sound expertise in the capital markets. There should also be a passion for looking for innovative capital market-based solutions to sustainably support and address climate change and environmental issues and concerns."

A graduate of the Ateneo De Manila Univesity, where he earned his AB Interdisciplinary Studies in 1988, Guarin can't think of any school he could recommend in preparation for the carbon market industry aside from his alma matter. He feels that more than a specialized course, people and leadership skills would have more weight. "Most often, one would be dealing with persons of different cultures, with differing opinions and varied vested interests, in the course of figuring out innovative ways on how to develop the total CDM project-a project that would be mutually beneficial to all CDM stakeholders."

Green returns

Budding financial or banking experts who have the passion for the environment can look into a career as a carbon investment banker, a carbon fund asset and risk manager, a dealer

BANK/ B8

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

What options do you have when facing a conflict?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've had a long simmering conflict with a coworker. I'm not sure how I should proceed. Can you outline some options?

Reluctant Warrior

Recently, I read about two Arizona nursing home residents who got in a fist fight. Luckily neither was hurt and after they were separated, the combatants could not remember what happened or why they were fighting.

Unfortunately, like these two seniors, many of us forget to fully explore our options for addressing and resolving conflict at work. Below I've listed five possible strategies for overcoming conflict. For more strategies check out "A Survival Guide for Working With Humans" by Gini Graham Scott (Amacom, 2004).

Confrontation. Let's start with what most of think of when we think of conflict, confrontation. This is when you exercise your power to get what you want. As fun as it can be to flex your muscles with someone who you have more power than, confrontation runs the risk of alienating the other party. So even if you have the power to get what you want, you might want to consider the four additional approaches that are available to you. They are:

Collaboration. This is where you work with the other party to consider the issues that you're facing and to work together to resolve them. Obviously, you've got to have a level of trust with the other party, or be willing to take a chance on creating it. Many of the times that I've gone this route I've discovered that there were ways that the other party could help me that I didn't even know about.

Compromise. I think that this "C" word gets a bad reputation at work. There are often many times where our pride gets in the way of a better outcome. In compromise, each side gives a little so that both sides can get something that they need out of the conflict. The more you can give ground on things that aren't that important to you, the more the odds will increase that you can nail down the stuff that really matters to you.

Accommodation. This is where you give in to what the other party wants because they have more power or the issue isn't that important to you. Even if they are more powerful, you can ask for something in return for your accommodation. You might be surprised what they'll give if you initiate this process.

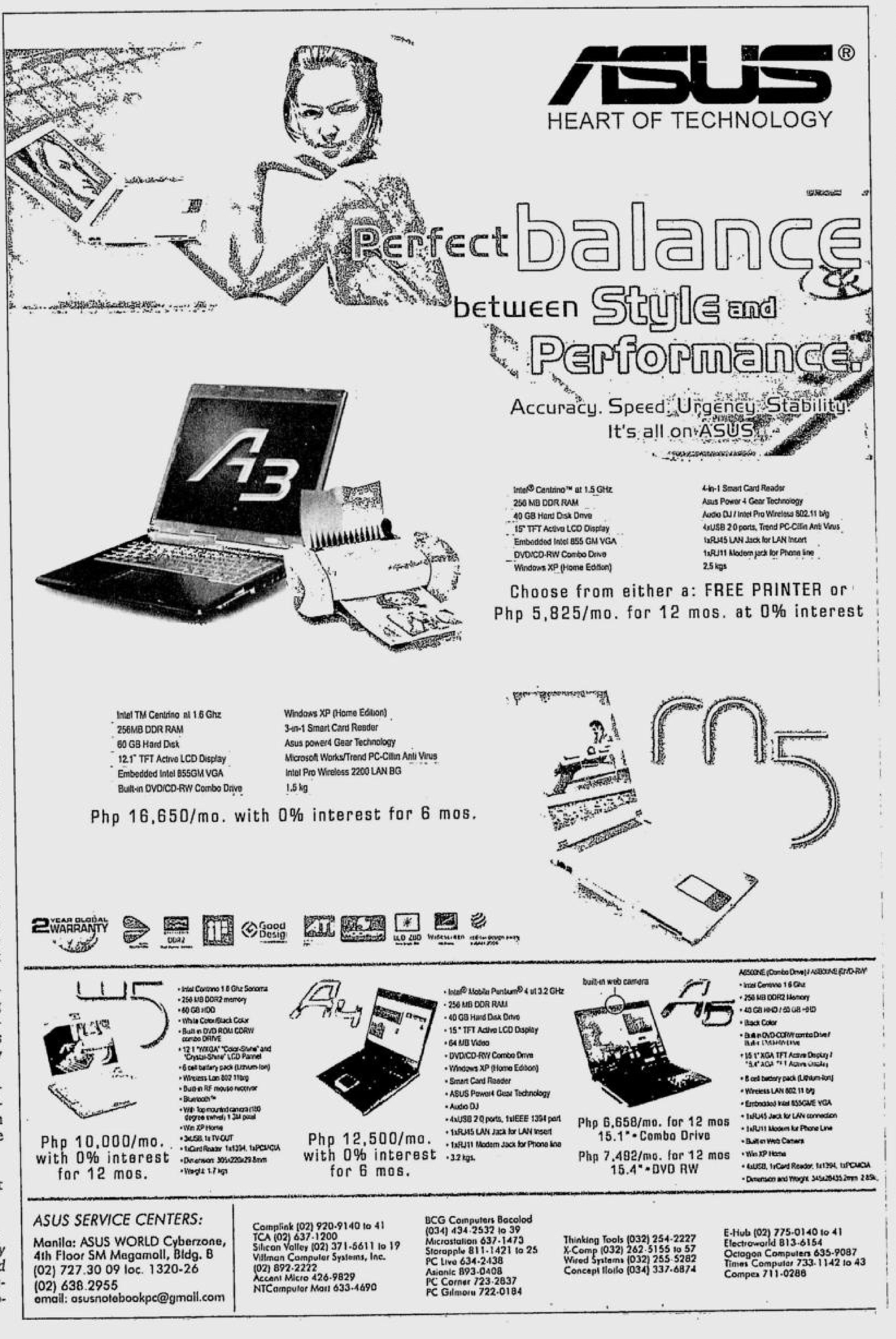
Avoidance. General Patton said don't get in a fight if you don't gain anything by winning. Amen! Often we can avoid a conflict by leaving, not thinking about it or by delaying any action. Remember, it takes two to tango, just because someone else thinks you are in a conflict it doesn't mean that you have to join in.

Age doesn't always bring wisdom when it comes to dealing with conflict, but if you can remember to use these techniques you will be wise indeed. And they may save you a sock in the jaw.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which conflict strategy do you use the most at work?

—Confrontation, 8.3 percent
—Accommodation, 13.4 percent
—Compromise, 21 percent
—Avoidance, 22.8 percent
—Collaboration, 34.4 percent

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)



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- 1xRJ11 Modem for Phone Line
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People at Work turns five!

By Regina Galang Reyes
People at Work editor

PEOPLE at Work celebrates today five years of publication as a subsection of the Business Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. People at Work first saw the light of day last May 31, 2000 on a Wednesday. Like any parent, we in the editorial staff thought it was a beautiful baby with a bright future ahead. As it grew and explored the wonderful world of work, she faced many challenges, often getting bumps along the way. Today, at five, this subsection has definitely learned to walk. It has walked through many issues and concerns of people at work and jobseekers in the hope of finding a path (many paths actually) where people can find growth and fulfillment not only in work but also in life.

While turning five is a big thing really, alas, the editorial staff have been so busy at work that we have had little time to prepare to celebrate five years of existence with as much pomp and glitter as our sister sections in the paper.

What we can do today though is to pause for a while and have a chat with you our readers who have given us inspiration to continue growing and learning. The chat will be conducted in the People at Work Community chat room.

The People at Work Community is an e-group created last December 2, 2004 for People at Work readers. It is a network of people at work and jobseekers designed to support its members in their career growth and development. Discussions focus on careers, work and the workplace. Inputs are given by working professionals, jobseekers, HR executives and practitioners, managers, trainors and consultants. Reading the daily messages, you will be amazed at the atmosphere of helpfulness in the community, though members only meet each other through the computer. As of yesterday, this e-group has 714 members.

Chat with two of our most popular columnists, Ernie Cecilia and Bob Rosner, at the People at Work Community chat room today

Join two of our most popular columnists in the Community's chat room today:

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. — Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, and Ask Your Career Counselor columnist. He will accessing the chat room from his office here in Manila.

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. — Bob Rosner, best-selling author, speaker and webmaster, who writes Working Wounded, an internationally syndicated column carried by People at Work. He will be accessing the chat room from Seattle, Washington at 9:00 p.m. Washington time.

Here's how you can join today's chat:

1. If you are not yet a People at Work community member, first get a yahoo account at www.yahoo.com and click on Mail. Call in your yahoo ID (for example, ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com) to tel. no. 937-0376 or 935-6678 before the chat schedule so that you can be registered in the People at Work Community.

2. To enter the People at Work community web site, go to http://groups.yahoo.com.

CECILIA

ROSNER

4. Sign in your Yahoo ID and password.

5. In the Group Home page, click "pawcommunity."

6. On the pawcommunity home page (http://finance.group.yahoo.com/group/pawcommunity/), click on "chat" to enter the chat room. Your computer should be configured for the chat feature and should have no firewalls that blocks chat feature.

7. The chat will be moderated by pawcommunity@yahoo.com.

How do employees take their leaves?

By Jenny See and Edmund Ruaro

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

TWEAKING a quote made by Italian playwright Carlo Goldini, "He who never leaves is full of stress." Even in the thick of work, employees sometimes catch themselves thinking of things farthest away from it such as personal matters in their lives. When is the best time to schedule a leave for a wedding, to visit the doctor or take the family for a vacation? These are some personal concerns of employees as they go about their daily work.

In view of this situation, employers realize that they also need to attend to the personal needs of their employees by offering leave benefits and making it a part of the company's compensation and benefits package. Thus, it is now common practice in many companies that employees can take time off from work to spend time with their families, attend special events or simply to relax and recharge.

Leave policy

A generous leave policy can help attract and retain high quality employees. A comprehensive leave policy clearly enumerates the types of leaves available, who the approving authority is, the scope for each leave, and the procedures employees go through to avail of such leaves. However, despite the presence of leave policies where each employee is expected to make use of their leaves appropriately, abuse of leave policies can be a major problem.

Leave abuse occurs when employees fail to use their leaves properly, maintain scheduled working hours, and/or fail to report and record properly the use of leaves. Abusing leaves can have economic implications to the institution wherein colleagues of someone who abuses their leave have to pick up the workload and the services the organization wishes to extend to its constituents can adversely be affected.

Practices

This month's People at Work article focuses on how Filipino workers take their leaves, specifically, what leaves are available to them, who they inform and what factors they consider when taking a leave.

Thirty respondents answered the survey. Fifty-seven percent were females and 43 percent were males with ages ranging from 23 to 59 years old. The average tenure of the respondents was nine years. Fifty-seven percent came from the corporate sector, 27 percent came from the government sector, 10 percent from the academe and 6 percent from NGOs.

Types of leaves

Whether employees work in a small business or a large enterprise, employers have the responsibility of granting their employees benefits, one of which is the right to take leaves. According to the Department of Labor and Employment and the Philippine Labor Code, there are three types of leaves that an employer is obliged to extend its employees: the service intensive leave, the maternity leave, and the paternity leave.

Aside from these mandatory leaves, there are other types of leaves employers provide, but which the government does not require, in order to recruit and retain good performers Entrepreneur Philippines, January/February 2003). Results reveal that majority (67 percent) of the respondents have vacation leave privileges, 26 percent have sick leaves. Other types of leaves available to employees are emergency leaves (17 percent) and study leaves (17 percent).

Leave-taking procedures

Filing for a leave involves informing the approving authority, in most cases this is the employee's direct supervisor. In order to gain approval, most (80 percent) of the respondents said that they had to inform their immediate supervisors about their plan to take a leave. About 67 percent informed their coworkers, 40 percent told their subordinates while 27 percent informed their clients as well. For scheduled leaves, respondents preferred to inform their supervisors at least two weeks before the leave date.

When taking their leaves, employees in the survey believe they need to consider certain factors first such as the availability of people to takeover their responsibilities while they are gone (53 percent), the number of people already on leave (23 percent), their current workload (23 percent), peak season (17 percent), and the number of excess leaves already taken (19 percent). Surprisingly, although leave benefits are considered to be paid leaves, findings show that only 67 percent of the respondents reported having their unused leaves converted to cash.

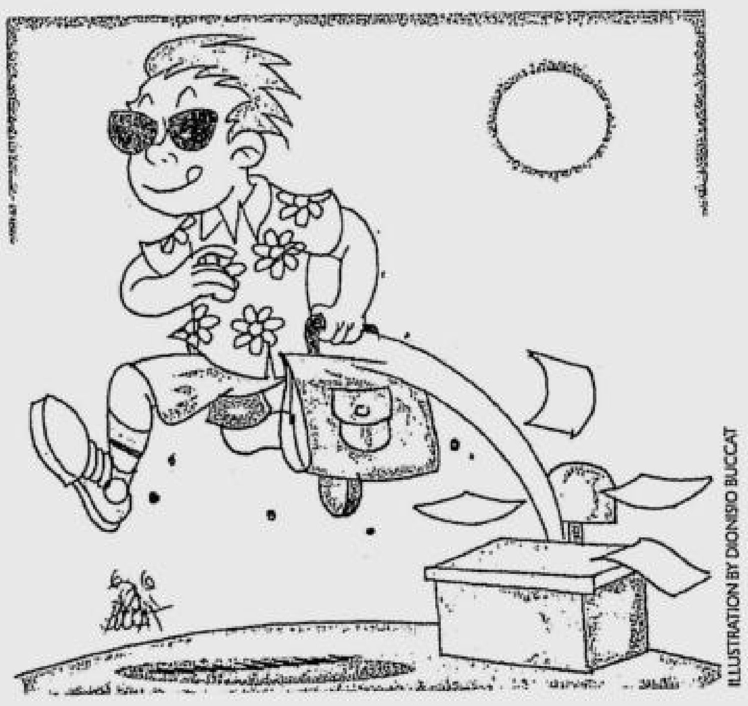
ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Implications

In a time of economic crisis, there is a need for organizations and all its members to adapt a consistently efficient business environment. However, not to be overlooked is how employers can help their employees maintain a well-balanced life as well. As the work pressures grow, so too does the employee's need to relieve that weight. With this in mind, employers should consider the well-being of their employees and give them the reassurance of job security and the lack of criticizing eye when their employees need to take time off. Furthermore, employers can take the effort to compensate or even facilitate an easy process for their employees to take care of personal matters and concerns. It would be good if employers properly document their employees' leaves and have a facility to track and automatically check leaves taken as well as the available leave balance of each employee.

On the other hand, employees have to understand that some workloads cannot be dropped at their whim, especially at the busiest of times. Employees also need to remember that requesting or receiving a leave in no way relieves employees of their obligation while on the job, to perform their job responsibilities capably, and to observe all the policies, rules and procedures of the organization. It is recommended that employees actively notify their supervisors and/or seek the advice from the office of the human resources for more information regarding leave policies in their organization. By knowing such, employees can take their leaves minus the stress and with peace of mind.

(*Ms See is a graduate student in the Ateneo de Manila Department of Psychology. Mr. Ruaro is a fourth year BS Psychology student of the Ateneo de Manila University.*)

Computer-mediated distance learning/training

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this "pulse" will be published the following month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from last month's survey are **Charlene Fernandez** and **Ma. Regina R. Dela Cruz** (please contact Ateneo CORD at 426-5931 to claim your prizes).

1. Have you ever taken an online course or participated in an online training program?
   - ____ Yes, I am already finished
   - ____ Yes, I am currently enrolled
   - ____ No, but I am considering taking it up
   - ____ No, I will never take up online learning
2. What are the advantages of taking computer mediated distance learning? Check as many as possible.
   - ____ Alternative to traditional education
   - ____ Economical
   - ____ Convenient study schedule
   - ____ High-tech and innovative learning aids
   - ____ Less effort
   - ____ Unlimited contact to faculty members
   - ____ Accessibility from any computer with Web access
   - ____ Others ____________
3. What are the disadvantages of computer-mediated learning? Check your choices.
   - ____ Ineffective teaching methodologies
   - ____ Expensive
   - ____ Limited training or degree programs available
   - ____ Technical and computer-related problems
   - ____ No interaction with the instructor
   - ____ Others ____________
4. What reasons would you consider for not taking up online learning? Rank your responses.
   - ____ No computer
   - ____ No high-speed Internet access
   - ____ Lack of social interaction (e.g. face-to-face group meetings)
   - ____ Fear of using the computer/Technophobia
   - ____ Lack sufficient funds
   - ____ Favor traditional/classroom learning
   - ____ Others: ____________
5. What would influence [has influenced] your decision to take up an online course? Check as many.
   - ____ Tuition reimbursements/ scholarships
   - ____ Costs
   - ____ Required for promotion at work
   - ____ Time saving
   - ____ Credibility of institution
   - ____ Programs are not available locally
   - ____ Ease of use
   - ____ Others ____________

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Mail your answers to People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2nd flr. Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or fax to (632) 426-6065, e-mail ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or text to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1. (answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

'What's luck got to do with career success?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I'VE BEEN working for about four years now. Although my salary has improved over the years, I don't think I am paid quite well. In fact, my younger brother recently got a job offer with a salary that is even a little bit higher than mine. And he is a fresh graduate!

What I don't understand is, I have been a diligent student and employee yet it seems that opportunities for career growth come far and between for me. Modesty aside, I obtained higher grades than my foster brother in a university considered by many as one of the top schools in the Philippines. I can also say that I've been performing well in our company since they are giving me higher responsibilities.

I know that there are uncontrollable factors such as my foster brother being Chinese that's why he was favored for the job. While I am very happy for him, I'm finding the situation quite unfair. Why does it seem that some persons have to exert the extra effort to find better opportunities that other people easily find? Do you believe that luck plays a greater part in finding career opportunities?

Thanks for your advice.

Believe in Luck

What an interesting subject! It is tough answering you with a black and white answer.

But based on my experience, it is best for a person to set his or her own vision and goals and pursue them. Frankly, it is a waste of time looking at your siblings and wondering why you are not doing as well as they do. I read a slogan somewhere that every person must march to the sound of his or her own drum. As a Christian, I believe that each one has a design of love that God has carved uniquely for us. The design for each one of us is different. What is important is for us to unravel that design day by day. So whether a brother is richer or more famous should not disturb me. If I am doing and working on my life design, I am content and happy.

This does not mean I take the fatalistic view and wait for the future to unravel. I have to be proactive and use my intelligence. I have to be able to use my visionary faculties to anticipate what are the trends in my field or profession. For example, one can identify the companies that have the greatest chance for growth. Joining these companies, if you are diligent and creative, you get noticed and you can get promoted quickly. And the opposite is true, if you join a company whose industry is in slow growth, your chance of moving rapidly up the ranks is slim.

I remember the words of one of my mentors. He said that your promotion is in your hands. The seed of your promotion is under your control. If you do your work exceeding work expectations all the time, your boss will have no choice but to promote you. Now that I own and run my own enterprise, I have proven this dictum as true. If I find an employee demonstrating excellent performance, generously and visibly displaying talent, and I don't have a vacant position, I am forced to create a position to keep said employee.

Now, it is also true, that some people who may not shine in school may be at the right place at the right time and get good breaks. You may call this luck. But luck smiles on those who prepare and get ready, so that when opportunities come their way, they are ready.

When I was studying for my master's degree a Chinese classmate of mine talking about our future as a batch made a prophecy, "The top students in our class will become professors, the top 30 percent will be hired by multinationals, the next 30 percent by local companies, the bottom 40 percent will become successful entrepreneurs, who in the future will hire the top students as consultants or managers." What truth lies in this prophecy? The fact that those who do not shine in school try to become smarter and better to make the most of the circumstances they find themselves in.

You have been gifted with a superior education coming from one of the country's best school. How will you leverage on this? Develop your own career plan within or even across companies. Pace yourself, don't be in haste. All the best! God bless.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

Bank executive …

From page B7

or trader in the emerging carbon markets, or a researcher in any private institution or one of the supranational agencies like the United Nations, ADB or World Bank carbon business group that are engaged in the climate change issues. And the good news is , because carbon credits are priced in euros or US dollars, carbon market experts can hope to expect compensation in the same currency.

But more than the green bucks, the climate change programs head is grateful for the opportunity of being able to contribute to a greener planet minus the greenhouse effect. He also enjoys the idea of being in a pioneer project. "I love the reality that we are one of the pioneers in the development of an emerging carbon market or green capital markets. It is like scuba diving where one gets that unique feeling of total immersion and movement in a familiar but unexplored and wild place," shares Guarin who is also a certified scub diving instructor.

For Guarin, the challenge is ho to effectively leverage Philippine su tainable development in the value the emission reduction credits. "F the first time, perhaps in the histo of capital markets, the de facto sec ritization of sustainable developme is being made alongside with that the emission reduction credits. If t Kyoto Protocol shall be true to spirit, then the value of Greenhou Gas (GHG) emissions reductions t gether with sustainable developme ought to be distinctly recognize Thus, how to maximize such benef for the Philippines is the challeng Guarin is up to the challenge becau he believes that with the financ and environmental benefits of gre capital markets, we can all hope greener pastures ahead.

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanu va@pldtdsl.net.)

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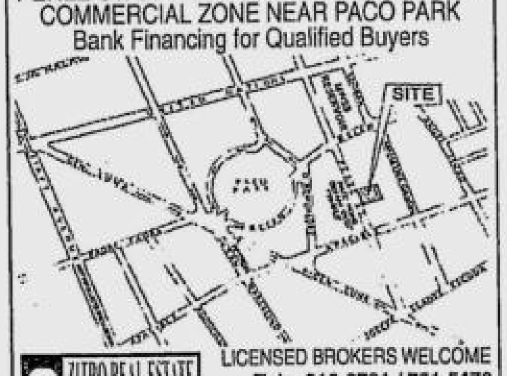

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2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

Lhasa Apso Pups 0927-4313704

WANTED TO BUY

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
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SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
CORPORATE OFFICE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 922-3757 / 922-2969 • Fax No. (632) 921-2887

SECOND INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) invites interested parties ("Project Proponents") to prequalify to bid for the **MWSS Treated Bulk Water Supply Project** (the "Project") to supply a total of 400 MLD treated bulk water to the MWSS Concession Areas.

The Project will be implemented in accordance with R.A. No. 7718. (Philippine BOT Law) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) under a Build-Operate-and-Transfer contractual arrangement. The Project Proponent shall be responsible for identifying the proposed water source/s, financing, feasibility study, detailed engineering design, construction, and operation and maintenance of the treated bulk water supply facilities. Contractor(s) to be engaged in the Project shall be identified.

The competitive bidding for the Project will be conducted in accordance with the procurement guidelines of the BOT Law.

The new Prequalification Documents may be obtained from the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Office of the MWSS' Senior Deputy Administrator, located at the Ground Floor, Engineering and Operations Building, MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines, starting on May 31, 2005 until June 27, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00). Only those who purchased the new Prequalification Documents, which contain detailed instructions to applicants, will be allowed to submit applications to prequalify.

Applications to Prequalify should be submitted in the required number of copies, in sealed envelopes, to the above address not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Manila time) of **July 26, 2005.** Reference time shall be the bundy clock located at the same office indicated above. Late submissions shall not be accepted.

The Prequalification Conference is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on June 23, 2005 at the MWSS Board Room, 5th Floor MWSS Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

The MWSS reserves the right to reject any or all applications to prequalify and any or all bids, and declare a failure of prequalification and/or bidding or not award the contract where such award will not redound to the benefit of the MWSS and the public.

The MWSS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnity the applicants and/or bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their application and bids.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
Administrator

(PDI--May 25, June 1 & 8, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
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MISCELLANEOUS

FOOD CART STAINLESS P27T 0917-8214936

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc.
Pob Meyc Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of DEC. '04 on JUNE 24, '05 10am · *Lanuza & Sons*
(PDI JUNE 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CARMEN V. BERTOLANO has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No 241; Page No. 49; Book No. XLVIII; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Donato Manguiat.
PDI-May 18, 25& June 1,2005

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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up to P20K/mo. 3762642

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW Consign 09167940002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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DRIVER · 10 yrs. exp stay-in. married 724-9330 - 28

FEMALE

Massage/Facial Atndant 631-3496

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER 941-4361

WANTED
By a leading Industrial Products Manufacturer

SALES MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS
- With proven track record in sales and marketing of industrial and construction products
- Must have extensive experience in wholesale and retail trade
- College graduate, with pleasing personality
- Must have good leadership qualities
- Communicates well in oral and written English
- Computer literate

Send complete resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 photo.

LCL
P.O. Box 2115
Commercial Center, Makati City

URGENTLY NEEDED
FEMALE SECRETARY
College graduate • Below 30 yrs. old • Computer literate w/work experience • Pleasing personality Preferably can speak Chinese
Please call: Tel.nos.: 242-6942 • 241-5237

Cover Boy
BAR AND RESTAURANT

Male Entertainment
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Tel: 714-9480
Cel: 0927-585-6309
Address: 2nd Floor, 3100 Alcar Building, Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard Sta. Mesa, Manila ([illegible] near LRT Pureza Station)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

SALES PROMO
19-22Yrs., 5'3"Height, Acctg. Exp., Single • 724-9330 - 28

URGENT FEMALE ACCOUNTANT
COMP.LITERATE LOOK FOR
952-6240 / 952-2510

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mol 8927828

CAREGIVER 5280722

DENTIST 933-1413

[illegible]

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Expanding Web Design Co.
Needs Business Reseller
High profits
Apply online
www.cyow.com/reseller
Txt: Tine 09208660799

IMMEDIATE HIRING
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20-45yo fluent in English coll level/grads any course.
Bring resume @ Unit E 1675 Rizalina 2 Building Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.
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IN-HOUSE MARKETING
FREELANCE MARKETING
AGENTS for uniforms
843-7633/37; 843-7539

Graphic Expo 2005 opens at PTTC today

THE PRESTIGIOUS Graphic Expo 2005 will kick off at the Philippine Trade Training Center today, with Advertising Board of the Philippines chair Raul Alvarez and the officers of the print, photo, animation and IT industries leading in the opening ceremonies.

Alvarez will deliver the keynote address shortly after the ribbon-cutting rites and the welcome remarks of Zone V Camera Club president Mario H. Babiera.

Brief messages will also be delivered by presidents Budee Mendoza of IdN Club Philippines, Mari Chris Tabaniag of the Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines, and Lex Kabigting of eArt Philippines.

Graphic Expo's opening rites include the awarding of winners of the Annual Digital Art Competition, Digital Imaging Contest, and Animation Competition.

Plaques of appreciation will also be awarded to sponsors by Norelyn T. Babiera, vice president of Fiera de Manila Inc, the event organizer.

Babiera will lead the guests in a tour of the exhibits, which will feature the latest state-of-the-art products, equipment, facilities, tools and services in desktop and web publishing, digital imaging and photography, pre-press and print production, large format printing, and multimedia and animation, among others.

The exhibits present business opportunities and the best buys possible in the industry.

Moreover Graphic Expo includes a seminar series on high-tech printing, imaging, web publishing, photography, and animation, with 16 of the country's experts tapped to conduct the lectures.

They include the country's topnotch Photoshop guru Jun Miranda, advertising creative director and engineer Tony Bucu of Powerhaus Unlimited, Flash engineer and senior web developer Jon Danao of Slingshot Interactive, Epson Stylus Pro photographer and instructor Dominique James of the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, digital artist and consultant Henry Lopez of Philippine Animation Studio Inc, Apple- and Macromedia-certified trainer and president Dennis Lucero of Mediastreak Multimedia and Internet Development, and post-production expert and on-air promotions head Robert Quilao of MTV Philippines.

Other members of the elite panel are US-educated Photoshop CS expert and instructor Mario Ramirez of the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, independent graphic designer Ige Ramos of the "Tomato Graphics" fame, digital imaging photo lecturer and vice president Richel Mascarinas of the Society of Philippine Portrait Photographers (SPPP), professional photographer and adviser Toch Arellano of the SPPP, architect and animation training specialists Ronna Lara-Bes of Discreet for its Asia Pacific clients, professional Multimedia lecturer and computer graphic professor Ronnie Millevo of the De La Salle University's College of St. Benilde and St. Scholastica's College Manila, and technical support engineers Catherine Crisostomo, Hanz Dy and Mike Martinez of Adobe customer support center that supports the entire Asia Pacific region.

The seminars will be held in the same venue during Graphic Expo's 4-day run up to June 4. Invited to join the seminars are professional and amateur graphic and digital designers, web masters, photographers, digital artists, animation and design studios, production houses, schools, training institutions, animators, multimedia specialists, corporate executives, students, hobbyists, and enthusiasts, among others.

Graphic Expo is supported by IdN Club Philippines, Zone V Camera Club, eArt Philippines, SPPP, Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, and Animation Council of the Philippines, and sponsored by Fujifilm, Epson, HP Philippines, Gakken Philippines, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Designer Singapore, IT Update, Computerworld, Softrigger Interactive, Web Philippines, INQ7.net, BusinessWorld, Manila Bulletin, Mac Graphics Carranz, and Speed Magazine.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-098

RE: Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

CASIANO A. OBLIGADO, JR.,
Applicant.
x-------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

1. For Liner Operation

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MBCA LOLITA CONCEPCION - UNO	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes
MBCA LOLITA CONCEPCION - II	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes
MBCA LOLITA CONCEPCION - TRES	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes

Route/s to be served

C P Garcia, Bohol-Mandaue City - C.P. Garcia, Bohol, Ubay, Bohol-Bato, Leyte and vice versa

Sailing Frequency(ies)/Schedule

DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
C P Garcia	Tue	8:00 AM	Mandaue	Tue	11:00 AM
Mandaue	Wed	8:00 AM	C.P. Garcia	Wed	11:00 AM
C.P Garcia	Thu	7:00 AM	Ubay	Thu	7:30 AM
Ubay	Thu	9:00 AM	Bato	Thu	10:45 AM
Bato	Thu	12:00 NN	Ubay	Thu	2:00 PM
Ubay	Thu	3:00 PM	C P Garcia	Thu	3:45 PM
C.P. Garcia	Fri	8:00 AM	Mandaue	Fri	11:00 AM
Mandaue	Sat	8:00 AM	C.P. Garcia	Sat	11:00 AM
C.P Garcia	Sun	7:00 AM	Ubay	Sun	7:30 AM
Ubay	Sun	9:00 AM	Bato	Sun	10:45 AM
Bato	Mon	9:00 AM	Ubay	Mon	11:30 AM
Ubay	Mon	12:00 PM	C.P. Garcia	Mon	12:30 PM
C.P Garcia	Mon	7:00 AM	Ubay	Mon	7:30 AM
Ubay	Mon	9:00 AM	Bato	Mon	11:00 AM
Bato	Tue	9:00 AM	Ubay	Tue	11:00 AM
Ubay	Tue	12:00 NN	C.P. Garcia	Tue	12:30 PM
C P Garcia	Wed	7:00 AM	Ubay	Wed	7:30 AM
Ubay	Wed	9:00 AM	Bato	Wed	11:00 AM
Bato	Wed	12:00 NN	Ubay	Wed	12:30 PM
Ubay	Wed	3:00 PM	C.P Garcia	Wed	3:45 PM
C.P Garcia	Thu	8:00 AM	Mandaue	Thu	11:00 AM
Mandaue	Fri	8:00 AM	C.P Garcia	Fri	11:00 AM
C.P Garcia	Sat	8:00 AM	Mandaue	Sat	11:00 AM
Mandaue	Sun	8:00 AM	C.P Garcia	Sun	11:00 AM
Mandaue	Mon	8:00 AM	C.P Garcia	Mon	11:00 AM
C.P Garcia	Tue	7:00 AM	Ubay	Tue	7:30 AM
Ubay	Tue	9:00 AM	Bato	Tue	11:00 AM
Bato	Tue	12:00 NN	Ubay	Tue	12:30 PM
Ubay	Tue	3:00 PM	C.P Garcia	Tue	3:45 PM
C.P Garcia	Wed	8:00 AM	Mandaue	Wed	11:00 AM
Mandaue	Thu	8:00 AM	C.P Garcia	Thu	8:00 AM
C.P Garcia	Fri	7:00 AM	Ubay	Fri	7:30 AM
Ubay	Fri	9:00 AM	Bato	Fri	11:00 AM
Bato	Sat	9:00 AM	Ubay	Sat	11:00 AM
Ubay	Sat	12:00 PM	C.P Garcia	Sat	12:30 PM
C.P Garcia	Sun	9:00 AM	Mandaue	Sun	12:00 NN
C.P Garcia	Daily	7:00 AM	Ubay	Daily	7:30 AM
Ubay	Daily	8:30 AM	Cebu	Daily	12:00 NN
Cebu	Daily	9:00 AM	Ubay	Daily	12:30 PM
Ubay	Daily	2:00 PM	C.P. Garcia	Daily	2:30 PM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
C.P Garcia	Mandaue	-	180.00
C.P Garcia	Ubay	-	40.00
Ubay	Bato	-	170.00
Cebu	Ubay	-	180.00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Type of Cargo	Unit of Measure	Rate/Unit
From	To			
C.P Garcia	Mandaue	Assorted	Per kilo	P0.10
C.P Garcia	Ubay	Assorted	Per kilo	P0.10
Ubay	Bato	Assorted	Per kilo	P0.10
Cebu	Ubay	Assorted	Per kilo	P0.10

The Applicant shall cause then publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises: passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 08, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.** this 30th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **GLENN G. CABANEZ**
Regional Director

(PDI - June 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-101

RE Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

ROGELIO C. VILLA/VILLA SHIPPING LINES,
Applicant.
x------------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/to be Offered
MV EURO UNO	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV EURO DOS	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV KIM ANDREI	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV JAN DEAN	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV LAURICE MAE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV JAKE VINCENT	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV JOHN ROGER	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV CAMILLE JOYCE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV AARON KEITH	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV ERICKA SUZZANNE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV MONICA SUZZETTE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV JAKE VINCENT DOS	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause then publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 07 June 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.** this 26th day of May 2005, in Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **GLENN G. CABANEZ**
Regional Director

(PDI–June 1, 2005)

HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Expanded National Capital Region Field Office
2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that LEXMEDIA REALTY, INC. (owner) and CORINTHIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION (developer) have filed with this Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of units at **CASA BOUGAINVILLA** located at Mascardo St., Tejeros, Makati City, specifically described as Lot No. 22, Block No. 26 of the subdivision plan Psd-18114, containing an area of 355 square meters and registered under TCT No. 220934.

All papers relative thereto shall, upon request and payment of processing fee, be available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon.

Absent any legal impediment, the name of the above-cited project is deemed registered and a certificate, in evidence thereof, shall forthwith be issued after two (2) weeks from the last day of publication.

Quezon City, Metro Manila, May 19, 2005.

(Sgd.) **JESSE A. OBLIGACION**
Regional Director

(PDI–May 25 & June 1, 2005)

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

At.: Sitio Kanlibot, Bagumbayan, Theresa, Rizal (formerly Villarey Resort)
On: Thursday 2nd June 2005 - 10:30am

R.T. Crane; Truck w/ Boom Arm; Large Capacity Centrifugal/Submersible Pumps; GM/Deutz Engines; Winches; Tools & Equipment; Dive Gear; Measuring Instruments, etc.

In over 300 lots including: -

CRANE/TRUCK w/ BOOM ARM/LIFTING GEAR - KOMATSU LW200L-1 20T cap. R.T. Crane; IVECO Truck w/ 4T cap. Boom Arm; (2) Single Drum Winches; Asstd Pulleys; Asstd. Lifting Slings
PUMPS - FMC Peerless 760 G/M Centrifugal Water Pump; (4) EMU Submersible Pumps, (to 250HP); Asstd. Centrifugal/Submersible Pumps, (to 30HP), GRUNDFOSS SP5A Submersible; Asstd. Pump Controllers/Starters
ENGINES - GM Detroit 4 Cylinder Skid Mounted Engine; DEUTZ 4 Cylinder Engine (disassembled); DEUTZ 3 Cylinder Engine
LOOSE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - Air Compressor; Asstd. MAKITA/BOSCH Power Tools; Bolt Croppers, Asstd. PPE; Pipe Threading Tools; Asstd. Sockets/Wrenches; Asstd. Hand Tools; Cable Clips; Asstd. Consumables, etc.
DIVE GEAR - (2) SABRE/SIGMA Breathing Apparatus Kits; (2) SABRE 1200 Oxygen Cylinders; Rescue Bottle w/ Waist Strap; 3006-20 Divator II w/ Buddy Phone; Submersible Camera Set
MEASURING INSTRUMENTS - JW FISHER Pulse 8X Metal Detector; FUJI D10 Electronic Scale; Depth Gauge Measuring Tape
MISCELLANEOUS - (1) Roll Submersible Cable; Asstd. Transformers; Security Camera System; Brush Cutter; Asstd. Furniture; Storage Containers; Asstd. Jack Posts; etc.

On View: Wednesday 1st June 2005 - 9:00am to 5:00pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

For further information please contact Mags Calderon-Alicante
at Tel: 852 2910 loc. 111 Email: mags.calderon@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 JolliLand Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63-2) 852-2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63-2) 831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

Lighting career paths

IN CONJUNCTION with the upcoming Cebu Business Month, John Clements Consultants Inc will be holding a three-day job fair, Jobs@D'Mall.VisMin, from June 22 to 24, at the Ayala Center Cebu. The well-known human resources company recently conducted a series of English oral proficiency tests, which yielded surprising results. While only 48 percent of Manila candidates passed the tests, Cebu pulled ahead, with 70 percent of its candidates passing. Iloilo topped all the cities, however, with 91 percent passing. This signifies a growing number of qualified candidates from Visayas and Mindanao, and this job fair aims to tap into this pool of talent.

To assist these highly competent candidates, John Clements Consultants Inc is holding a one-day job seminar called CareerConference@JohnClements on June 21 with its partners, the Cebu Educational Development Foundation for Information Technology (Cedf-it), the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ayala Center Cebu, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Cebu Daily News, and ABS-CBN Cebu. The seminar will kick off the promising job fair, Jobs@D'Mall.VisMin. This promises sessions with professional coaches in resume writing, English speaking, facing interviews and career orientation.

For sponsorships and bookings, call Eric Salazar at the Inquirer head office, 897-8425 and 897-8808 loc. 514 or 516; or Cebu Daily News and call Mamai Duran at (032)232-7618 or Abby Caruana at (032)232-0033.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-099

RE: Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act no. 9295 and its implementing Rules and Regulations

GAUDENCIO Y. BARUC, JR.,
Applicant
x --x

O R D E R

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

1. For Liner Operation

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MBCA RR ISLANDER - 1	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes
MBCA RB QUEEN OF PARADISE	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes

Route/s to be served

Doong, Bantayan, Cebu-Hagnaya, San Remegio, Cebu & vice versa; Bantayan Island-Sagay, Negros Occidental and vice versa

Sailing Frequency(ies)/Schedule

DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Doong	Daily	8:00 AM	Hagnaya	Daily	9:30 AM
Hagnaya	Daily	1:30 PM	Doong	Daily	3:00 PM
Bantayan	Daily	10:00 AM	Sagay	Daily	12:30 PM
Sagay	Daily	1:30 PM	Bantayan	Daily	4:00 PM
TWO (2) HOURS BEFORE AND AFTER LOW/HIGH TIDE & BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS ONLY					
Bantayan	Daily	10:00 AM	Cadiz	Daily	12:30 PM
Cadiz	Daily	1:30 PM	Bantayan	Daily	4:00 PM
Bantayan	Daily	10:00 AM	Vito Cruz	Daily	12:30 PM
Vito Cruz	Daily	1:30 PM	Bantayan	Daily	4:00 PM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Doong, Bantayan Isl	Hagnaya	-	P 50.00
Bantayan	Sagay	-	P 60.00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Type of Cargo	Unit of Measure	Rate/Unit
From	To			
Doong, Bantayan Isl	Hagnaya	Assorted	Per kilo	P 0.50
Bantayan	Sagay	Assorted	Per kilo	P 0.50

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/to be Offered
MBCA QUEEN REBECCA	Any ports in Region VII	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 07 June 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.**, this 30th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **GLENN G. CABANEZ**
Regional Director

(PDI - June 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-103

RE Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No 9295 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

GABISAN SHIPPING LINES, INC.,
Applicant.
x --------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

1. For Liner Operation

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV GLORIA THREE	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes
MV GLORIA TWO	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes
MV GLORIA – G	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes

Route/s to be served

Cebu-Hilongos, Leyte & vice versa; Dato, Leyte-Ubay, Bohol & vice versa

Sailing Frequency(ies)/Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Hilongos	Sun	9:00 PM	Cebu	Mon	2:30 AM
	Mon	9:00 PM		Tue	2:30 AM
	Tue	9:00 PM		Wed	2:30 AM
	Wed	9:00 PM		Thu	2:30 AM
	Thu	9:00 PM		Fri	2:30 AM
	Fri	9:00 PM		Sat	2:30 AM
Cebu	Mon	9:00 PM	Hilongos	Tue	2:30 AM
	Tue	9:00 PM		Wed	2:30 AM
	Wed	9:00 PM		Thu	2:30 AM
	Thu	9:00 PM		Fri	2:30 AM
	Fri	9:00 PM		Sat	2:30 AM
	Sat	9:00 PM		Sun	2:30 AM
Bato	Mon	9:00 AM	Ubay	Mon	11:30 AM
	Wed	9:00 AM		Wed	11:30 AM
	Fri	8:00 AM		Fri	11:30 AM
	Sun	9:00 AM		Sun	11:30 AM
Ubay	Tue	9:00 AM	Bato	Tue	11:30 AM
	Thu	9:00 AM		Thu	11:30 AM
	Sat	9:00 AM		Sat	11:30 AM
	Sun	12:00 NN		Sun	2:30 PM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Cebu	Hilongos	Deck A	P 160.00
Hilongos	Cebu	Deck A	P 160.00
Cebu	Hilongos	Deck B	P 150.00
Hilongos	Cebu	Deck B	P 160.00
Cebu	Hilongos	Deck C	P 140.00
Hilongos	Cebu	Deck C	P 140.00
Bato	Ubay	–	P 150.00
Ubay	Bato	–	P 150.00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Class A	Class B	Class C
From	To			
Cebu	Hilongos	204.14	184.33	169.45
Hilongos	Cebu	204.14	184.33	169.45
Bato	Ubay	154.55	134.33	109.44
Ubay	Bato	154.55	134.33	109.44

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 07 June 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.** this 26th day of May 2005, in Cebu City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **GLENN G. CABANEZ**
Regional Director

(PDI–June 1, 2005)

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"I am the way,
the truth and
the life. No one
comes to the
Father except
through Me."
John 14:6

FEDERICO R. PAGUYO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 22, 2005 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife, **Matrona**; children and children-in-law **Gloria** and **Edgar**, **June** and **Junior**, **Nelson** and **Ester**, **Dante** and **Violy**, **Eddie** and **Delia**, **Melvyn** and **Norma**, **Elmo** and **Evelyn**, **Robin** and **Nene**, **Lucy** and **Molly**, **Ruth** and **Oscar**; 30 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

"God is the one who saves me;
I will trust him and not be afraid.
The Lord, the Lord gives me strength and makes me sing.
He has saved me."
Isaiah 12:2

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CHERIE UY PE

who passed away in the grace of our Lord
on April 4, 2005 at the age of 26

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all our relatives, friends – here and abroad – who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

- **DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT**
- **MESSAGE OF THANKS**
- **DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
- **REQUIEMS**
- **FREE OBIT DESIGN**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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of the First Death Anniversary of

Teresa L. Diaz

June 13, 1921 – June 1, 2004

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We pray for your eternal peace.

Letty, family, and friends

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Merville, Las Piñas and Toronto.

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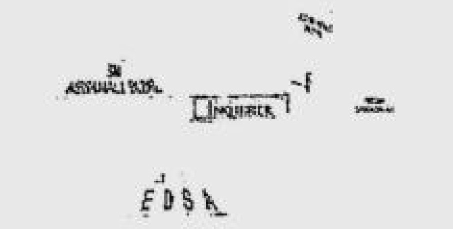

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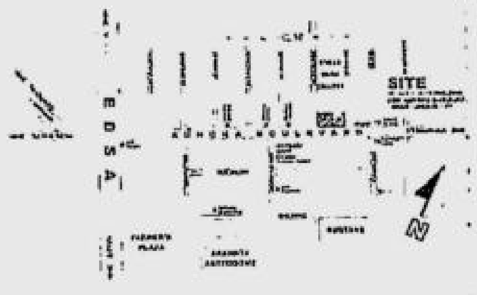

CLASSIFIEDS

NFA assures rice supply and prices for the lean months

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has called on the National Food Authority to intensify its rice distribution starting May up to the end of lean production months which is September. Starting October, the main harvest for rice will be starting thus prices and supply may be expected to soften and go down by November or December. Aside from NFA's regular distribution measures, it is also adopting four sales modes especially for the lean months. One of which is that the agency will continue to sell regular-milled rice (RMR) at P16 per kilogram through accredited outlets inside public markets.

Another mode the food agency shall likewise be espousing is to continue to sell the P16 per kilogram RMR through its existing rolling stores situated in depressed areas. Upon President Arroyo's instruction, the NFA is also putting up additional rolling stores during the lean months. As of press time, the NFA has a total of 48 rolling stores deployed in various areas around the country. Consumers are treated to marginalized prices of basic commodities available through these rolling store outlets giving them better value for their money. The NFA is also selling well-milled rice (WMR) at P18 per kilogram through accredited outlets outside public markets and via sale through auction of imported rice to private sectors. Aside from these strategies, the NFA will also consider selling affordable rice to factory workers and government employees by visiting factories and government offices. The food agency has also sent market monitoring teams to strictly monitor supply and prices of rice and apprehend those who violate the rules and regulations on grains distribution. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries, complaints or suggestions to the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

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PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International, Inc. is soliciting offers for:

Launching of Medium/Low-Priced Hormonal Contraceptive Brands in the Philippines

Background

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for family planning (FP) services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The Market Development Component (Component 2) of the project is intended to increase recognition of business opportunities in the hormonal FP commodities market in the Philippines and to motivate businesses to take advantage of those opportunities.

This solicitation for private sector partners is directly in response to the US Government's Global Development Alliance (GDA) initiative, which seeks to encourage innovative development, economic growth, and social well-being between the private and public sectors. In this case, PRISM is the public sector partner, and is willing to co-invest with US or Filipino private sector partners up to 50 percent of the costs involved in launching new hormonal contraceptives in the low/medium-price range. As a base to determine the investment breakdown, offerors' overall product launch budgets should include 100 percent of expected costs.

Qualification Requirements

- Must be a Philippine – based Pharmaceutical Company, distributing company, marketing firm, or NGO with capability of marketing and distribution of hormonal contraceptive products, duly registered under the Security and Exchange Commission and majority owned by Filipino or U.S. citizens;
- Must have a proven track record in pharmaceutical marketing distribution here in the Philippines or in other countries;
- Must have a team of qualified personnel to manage and execute the project and have the resources to launch, distribute and market the product;
- Must be in operation for the past 5 years; and
- Must have a positive net worth for 2004

For a copy of the Request for Proposal, please get in touch with Ms. Vivien S. Cabanban, Subcontract Specialist at (02) 490-0060 to 65 or 635-2397. You may also email: contracts@prism.org.ph.

The deadline for submission of proposals is on or before 11:00 A.M, June 27, 2005.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on June 7, 2005 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the PRISM Office, Units 23A&B, 23rd Floor, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, 22 F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD-2005-08

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 28, 2005; 9:00 AM			
8A1	CHAIN ELEMENTS FOR BESTA MILL DRAG LINK CONVEYOR	2BCF-05-209 (NY)	P 6,910,904.00
8A2	J.O. -SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS, TOOLS, EQUIPT & SUPERVISION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WASTE STORAGE BUILDING	2BCF-05-285 (NY)	P 2,700,000.00
8A3	CERAMIC POROUS PLATE FOR PRIMARY EP FLY ASH STORAGE SILO	2BCF-05-302 (NY)	P 1,380,659.00
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 28, 2005; 2:00 PM			
8B1	COAL FEEDER BULK FLOW CONTROL SYSTEM, MFR; BERTHOLD TECHNOLOGY	2BCF-04-897 (JS)	P 7,170,000.00
8B2	HIGH PRESSURE GLOBE CONTROL VALVE ASSY.	2BCF-04-896 (JS)	P 6,047,500.00
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 29, 2005; 9:00 AM			
8C1	PIPES, FITTINGS, FLANGES & WELDING ELECTRODES FOR MAKBAN GPP UNIT 1-4 REHAB WORKS	0MR-05-012 (RA)	P 919,531.00
8C2	LAMP, FLUORESCENT LAMP/TUBE, OCTRON 32W, T8, F032/865, DAYLIGHT, OSRAM-SYLVANIA (PB2)	PRS-05-007 (EA)	P 360,000.00
8C3	PARTS FOR 1 X 3 6 MW MARINAWA DIESEL POWER PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT	IGP-05-035 (NY)	P 1,638,280.00
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 29, 2005; 2:00 PM			
8D1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS IN THE INSTALLATION OF UPS FOR UNITS 1, 2, 5 & 6 (PB2)	3TPM-05-081 (JP)	P 3,500,000.00
8D2	J.O.-REPLACEMENT/REPAIR OF AUXILIARY RELAY & CONTROL PANEL INCLUDING CIRCUIT BREAKERS, MAGNETIC CONTACTOR & BUS CONTACTS OF UNIT 5	3TPM-05-099 (RP)	P 4,856,667.00
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 30, 2005; 9:00 AM			
8E1	BEARING FOR COAL UNLOADER INLET GEARBOX	1MCF-04-629 (JP)	P 1,570,800.00
8E2	SINGLE ROW CYLINDRICAL & DOUBLE TAPERED ROLLER BEARINGS	1MCF-04-738 (JP)	P 5,100,000.00
8E3	POWER CABLE W/ FIBER OPTIC, PANZERFLEX-FO OR EQUIVALENT	1MCF-05-139 (LS)	P 2,479,000.00
8E4	J.O. SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPT FOR THE REHAB/REPAIR OF COAL HANDLING CHUTES FROM TRANSFER TOWER #1 UP TO TRANSFER TOWER #7	1MCF-05-180 (JP)	P 3,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 30, 2005; 2:00 PM			
8F1	ASSEMBLY, FAN BLADES W/ HUB & COUPLING FLANGE, MFR.: NIPPI-HOWDEN/HOWDEN COOLING FAN	5PGP-05-020 (JP)	P 8,600,000.00
8F2	SEAL FINS FOR STEAM TURBINE, MFR.: FUJI ELECTRIC CO., LTD.	5PGP-05-185 (LS)	P 1,925,040.00
8F3	BLADES, MOVING, LP3 & LP2, MFR.: FUJI ELECTRIC CO. LTD.	5PGP-05-081 (LS)	P 21,340,800.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

8A1-8A3	June 14, 2005; 9:00 AM	8D2	June 15, 2005, 2:00 PM
8B1-8B2	June 14, 2005; 2:00 PM	8E1-8E4	June 16, 2005; 9:00 AM
8C1 & 8C3	June 15, 2005; 9:00 AM	8F1-8F3	June 16, 2005; 2:00 PM

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee per schedule as indicated below starting on June 7, 2005. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.

PRICE OF BID DOCUMENTS PER SCHEDULE			
8A3/8C1/8C2/8C3/8E1/8F2	P 500.00	8A1/8B1/8B2/8E2/8F1	P 2,000.00
8A2/8D1/8D2/8E3/8E4	P 1,000.00	8F3	P 5,000.00

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by other NPC Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Surety Bond Two and a half percent (2.5%) penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidders may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - June 1, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Committee on Disposal of Real Properties

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas invites all interested parties to bid for the following real estate properties:

TCT No.	Location	New	Old	Minimum Area	Description	Bid Price
	METRO MANILA					
	CALOOCAN CITY					
1	*Tierra Nova Royale 2*	9 lots		89 to 166 sq.m.	Residential lots	P2,700 toP3,000/sqm
10	*Tierra Nova Royale 2C*	19 lots		50 to 159 sq.m.	Residential lots	P3,000 toP3,200/sqm
29	*Tierra Nova Royale 3*	110 lots		50 to 302 sq.m.	Residential lots	P2,700 to P3,200/sqm
139	*Tierra Nova Royale 3B*	48 lots		60 to 248 sq.m.	Residential lots	P2,700 to P3,900/sqm
187	*Tierra Nova Royale 4*	23 lots		50 to 226 sq.m.	Residential lots	P3,000 to P3,200/sqm
	LAS PIÑAS					
210	Brgy. Manuyo Uno	87154	80379	37,788	Residential lot	52,641,000
211	Colt St., Gatchalian Subd. Manuyo Dos	86228	24591	27,144	Residential lot	42,302,000
212	L 10 B 21 Golden Gate Subd.	89992	64192	274	Res'l lot w/ 122 sqm imp	2,236,000
	MUNTINLUPA					
213	Brgy. Sucat	10349	158164	29,303	Residential lot	86,197,000
	PASIG					
214	Santolan, Pasig	124482	16723	358	Resd'l/Comm'l	6,086,000
	RIZAL					
	Antipolo City					
215	L 31 B 7 Marigold St. Lores Subd.	R-89992	295434	150	Res'l lot with 245 sq.m. imp	1,230,000
	Taytay					
216	B 2 L 35 Opal St. Palmera Homes II	681603	625806	160	Residential w/ imp	384,000
217	Brgy Dolores					
218	*Palmera Hills 6*	88 lots		84 to 276 sq.m.	Residential lots	P2,670 to P2,710/sqm
	LUZON					
	BATANGAS					
1	Poblacion, Lian	97449	85250	240	Res'l w/ 116 sq.m imp	1,409,800
2	Bo. San Miguel, Padre Garcia	123923	105524	365	Residential	766,500
3	Nat'l Rd., Brgy Tangob, Padre Garcia	122614	92442	1,821	Res'l lot with 135 sq.m. imp	707,000
	Lipa City					
4	Bo. Rizal	144073	104283	6,137	Agricultural	1,718,360
5	Poblacion	145589	48372	259	Com'l w/ 1,100 sq.m bank br.	18,439,400
6	Lodlod	144075	122565	105	Res'l w/ 57 sq.m imp	514,836
7	Bo. Marauoy	144092	126475	170	Residential	714,000
8	Bo. Pinagcaullan	144074	104277	566	Residential	420,000
9	Brgy. Bolboc	144083	126466	163	Residential	399,350
10	Brgy. Bolboc	144084	126467	160	Residential	336,000
11	Brgy. Bolboc	144085	126468	160	Residential	336,000
12	Brgy. Bolboc	144086	126469	163	Residential	399,350
13	Brgy. Bolboc	144080	126463	160	Residential	336,000
14	Brgy. Bolboc	144081	126464	160	Residential	336,000
15	Brgy. Bolboc	144082	126465	160	Residential	336,000
16	Brgy. Bolboc	144087	126470	160	Residential	336,000
17	Brgy. Bolboc	144088	126471	161	Residential	394,450
18	Brgy. Bolboc	144089	126472	161	Residential	394,450
19	Brgy. Bolboc	144090	126473	160	Residential	336,000
20	Brgy. Bolboc	144079	126462	160	Residential	336,000
21	Brgy. Bolboc	144091	126474	162	Residential	396,900
22	Brgy. Bolboc	144076	126459	160	Residential	336,000
23	Brgy. Bolboc	144077	126460	160	Residential	336,000
24	Brgy. Bolboc	144078	126461	160	Residential	336,000
	Nasugbu					
25	Bo. Wawa	97451	85248	396	Commercial	1,316,175
26	Bo. Wawa	97450	85249	600	Res'l w/ 96 sq.m imp	2,194,500
27	Poblacion	97452	79671	282	Commercial	6,547,100
	BULACAN					
28	Bo. Longos, Malolos	195415	T-35843	5,000	Residential lot	2,500,000
29	Bo. Pulong Yantok, Angat	434085	T-342166	1,938	Industrial lot	2,024,000
	Bocaue					
30	Lolomboy	434075	T-300710	160	Residential lot	406,600
31	Lolomboy	434076	T-300711	154	Residential lot	391,400
32	Bo Bambang	433765	T-87.678	11,220	Agricultural lot	4,488,000
33	Bo Bambang	51675	T-12044	3,173	Agricultural lot	1,269,200
	Marilao					
34	Bo. Abangan	434077	T-300712	130	Residential lot	330,400
35	Bo. Abangan	434078	T-300713	130	Residential lot	330,400
36	Bo. Abangan	434080	T-300714	130	Residential lot	330,400
37	Bo. Abangan	434081	T-300715	130	Residential lot	330,400
38	Bo. Abangan	434082	T-300716	130	Residential lot	330,400
	Norzagaray					
	Manila Brickworks Subdivision					
39	Lot 1	T-48694 P(M)	38651	4,807,611	Agr'l & Comm'l	865,369,980
40	Lot 2	T-48695 P(M)	38652	887,622	Agricultural	157,912,720
41	Lot 3	T-48696 P(M)	38653	1,120,586	Agricultural	199,358,280
42	Lot 4	T-48697 P(M)	38654	52,025	Agricultural	9,364,500
43	Lot 5	T-48698 P(M)	38655	38,609	Agricultural	6,949,620
44	Lot 6	T-48699 P(M)	38656	15,657	Agricultural	2,818,260
45	Lot 7	T-48700 P(M)	38657	58,116	Mango Land	10,460,880
46	Lot 8	T-48701 P(M)	38658	110,722	Mango Land	19,929,960
47	Lot 9	T-48702 P(M)	38659	16,066	Mango Land	2,891,880
	Pandi					
48	Bo. Bagbaguin	433763	T-340265	1,536	Residential lot	922,000
49	Bo. Bunsuran	434086	T-353771	186	Residential lot	372,000
50	Bo. Bunsuran	434087	T-353772	186	Residential lot	372,000
51	Bo. Bunsuran	434088	T-353773	203	Residential lot	406,000
52	Bo. Bunsuran	434091	T-353774	203	Residential lot	406,000
53	Bo. Cacarong	434089	T-325283	1,000	Residential lot	381,200
54	Bo. Cacarong	434090	T-325284	750	Agricultural lot	261,300
	Sta Maria					
55	Bo. San Gabriel	433762	T-327304	5,162	Agricultural lot	1,548,600
56	Sta. Maria, Bulacan	434079	T-335511	82	Residential lot	130,300
57	Bo. Sta. Cruz	434083	T-298495	500	Residential lot	888,400
58	Bo. Pulong Buhangin	434084	T-297183	1,038	Residential lot	1,557,000
	LAGUNA					
59	Bo. Gatid, Sta. Cruz	231960	98421	2,349	Agricultural Lot	364,470
60	Bo. Gatid, Sta. Cruz	231961	15896	17,617	Agricultural Lot	1,093,875
61	Bo. Gatid, Sta. Cruz	231962	19103	18,995	Agricultural Lot	1,094,808
62	Bo. Gatid, Sta. Cruz	231963	10795	31,775	Agricultural Lot	2,502,000
	NUEVA ECIJA					
63	Lot 5, Blk. 7, Encarnacion Subd., San Jose	26837	4490	180	Res'l w/ imp.	720,000
	Cabanatuan City					
64	Maharlika Highway, Brgy. Concepcion	110521	50566	1,980	Res'l w/ 384 sq.m imp & 408 sq.m. 8-dr apt.	15,027,900
65	Brgy. Bakod Bayan	110522	88123	7,539	Poultry Farm	1,462,300
	ORIENTAL MINDORO					
66	Socorro	129161	108656	18,412	Agricultural	736,000
67	Lot 3906-A-4, Mulawin, Naujan	T-88237	121734	10,177	Agricultural	204,000
68	Lot 5399-A-8-A, Ordovilla, Victoria	T-84292	117201	390	Residential lot	117,000
	Baco					
69	Lot B. Binaybay, Barrio Road, Santa Rosa I 200,000		T-67617	121740	10,000	Residential lot
70	Lot 3028-E, Mangangan, Brgy.Sta. Rosa I a/	T-57388	117209	39,162	Agricultural w/ 68 sq.m. imp	1,420,000
71	Lot 8, Barrio Mayabig a/ with pending case	T-90434	121742	45,271	Agricultural	879,000
	Calapan City					
72	Lot 2652-B-1-A-3, Balingan	T-81964	117205	10,000	Agricultural	300,000
73	Lot 8, Martinez Subdivision, Masipit	T-85764	117203	278	Residential w/ 114 sq.m. imp	542,000
74	Lot 536-B-5, Barrio Sapul	T-90089	117206	4,225	Agri./ res. w/ 48 sq.m. imp.	694,000
75	Lot 6001-E-4, Communal	T-68222	117204	243	Vacant residential lot	122,000
	Puerto Galera					
76	Lot 249-A, Poblacion	T-67782	117199	223	Residential w/ imp	223,000
77	Lot E-3, Villaflor	T-88226	117214	5,520	Agricultural	221,000
78	Lot 10113, Dulangan	P-1975	117208	8,925	Agricultural	661,000
79	Lot 2, Tabinay na Malaki	T-87953	117213	5,533	Agricultural	435,000
80	Tabinay Na Malaki	T-1023	117211	17,356	Agricultural	851,000
81	Lot 5, Tabinay na Malaki	T-57438	117210	5,534	Agricultural	332,000
	San Teodoro					
82	Lot 4092-D & E, Nat'l. Road, Barrio Ilag	T-88924	117215	14,155	Residential w/ imp	425,000
83	Lot 3397-E, Lumang Bayan	T-52788	117207	443	Residential w/ 80 sq.m. imp	229,000
84	Lot 3676-D-1-8, Poblacion	T-88502	117202	300	Residential lot	45,000
85	Lot D-3, Barrio Calangatan	T-18777	121741	15,000	Agricultural	516,000
86	Sitio Paspasin, Calangatan	T-50798	117212	16,623	Residential w/ 69 sq.m. imp	323,000
87	Barrio Calsapa	68197	117200	15,000	Agricultural	150,000
	PALAWAN					
88	Lot 4624, Sandoval, Narra	P-16814	P-11126	43,875	Agricultural	188,100
89	Lot 15125, Isumbo, Brookes Point	E-16816	E-8470	10,642	Agricultural	94,800
	Puerto Princesa					
90	L497-B-1 Mitra Rd. Brgy Sta Monica	169741	41006	5,251	Residential lot	1,050,000
91	Lot 6 Sitio Mentes, Brgy. Marayugon	169697	G-355	83,033	Agricultural	85,000
92	L-574 Sitio Candes, Brgy Bacungan	169740	2359	200,873	Agricultural	442,800
93	Lot 1-D Nat'l Highway, Brgy. Lucbuan	169696	16287	20,803	Residential lot	166,000
	Roxas					
94	Lot 560, Caramay	16779	E-6002	1,800	Residential lot	94,000
95	Lot 15-C, Barrio Del Pilar	16801	E-4314	587	Residential w/ 70 sq.m. imp	168,000
96	Lot 654 Brgy. New Cuyo	16748	P-10055	84,983	Agricultural	170,000
97	Lot 825 Sitio Bauyan Brgy. New Cuyo	16796	G-9036	20,000	Agricultural	80,000
98	Lot 676 Brgy. New Cuyo	16756	P-9676	59,927	Agricultural	59,000
99	L-913 Brgy Rd., Sitio Buayan, Brgy New Cuyo	16799	4969	37,578	Residential lot	113,000
100	National Road, Brgy New Cuyo	16802	E-11054	27,532	Agricultural	110,000
101	L-326 Brgy Jolo	16776	G-8736	54,604	Agricultural	55,000
102	L-349 Sitio Katin-Katin, Brgy Malcompo	16798	P-10301	69,188	Agricultural	69,000
103	Lot 133, Sandoval	16820	C-2310	956	Agricultural	40,000
104	L-105 Brgy Sandoval	16811	4491	13,323	Agricultural	26,600
105	L-420 Brgy Sandoval	16775	E-3457	1,273	Residential lot	34,500
106	Lot 735, San Jose	16800	P-9442	39,115	Mix residential / agricultural	116,000
107	Lot 74, San Isidro	16777	G-5997	61,839	Agricultural	132,300
108	L-719 Brgy. San Nicolas	16782	E-4820	1,160	Residential lot	42,200
109	L-720 Brgy. San Nicolas	16783	E-6955	1,161	Residential lot	79,500
110	Lot 717 & 718 Brgy. San Nicolas	16784	E-4295	2,299	Residential lot	45,780
111	Barrio Tagumpay	P-16815	P-10497	85,910	Agricultural	303,200
112	Lot 810 National Road, Brgy. Tagumpay	16797	4546	14,541	Residential lot	73,000
113	Lot 511, Taradungan	16778	P-10083	108,897	Agricultural	529,300
114	L-132 Brgy Bontering, Brgy Tumarbong	16819	G-6789	109,015	Agricultural	109,000
	Quezon					
115	Lot 7533, Aramaywan	E-16793	E-7224	600	Residential lot	30,400
116	Lot 7162, Aramaywan	E-16794	E-8355	57,549	Agricultural	173,000
117	Barrio Aramaywan	E-16752	E-7484	25,927	Agricultural	104,000
118	Lot 11482, Calumpang	E-16810	E-12201	32,931	Residential lot	275,500
119	Lot 3004, Malatgao, Quezon	E-16817	E-11048	1,213	Agricultural	35,000
120	Lot 231, Barrio Panitian, Quezon	P-16818	P-10336	37,771	Agricultural	113,000
121	Lot 4271 J. P. Laurel Street, Brgy. Poblacion	16795	T-11302	573	Residential lot	40,000
122	V. Pagayona St., Poblacion	E-16809	E-7190	606	Residential lot	145,100
123	Lot 4708, Poblacion	E-16747	E-8394	600	Residential lot	53,700
124	Apitong cor. Dangan Sts., Poblacion	E-16749	E-9397	596	Residential lot	82,000
125	Lot 3625, Quirino St., Poblacion	E-16750	E-7637	583	Residential lot	144,300
126	Lot 4136, Poblacion	E-16751	E-8978	568	Residential lot	132,200
127	Lot 3574, Poblacion	E-16808	E-7370	875	Residential lot	108,900
128	Lot 4350, C. Pagayona, Poblacion	E-16813	E-8235	576	Residential lot	60,300
129	Lot 4289, Poblacion	E-16754	E-9630	573	Residential lot	135,200
130	Lot 4684, Poblacion	E-16753	E-9268	776	Residential lot	54,000
131	Lot 4682, Antonio St., Poblacion	E-16780	E-8359	600	Residential lot	42,000
132	Lot 4679, Poblacion	E-16781	E-8265	600	Residential lot	42,000
133	Lot 4568, Poblacion	E-16812	E-8584	600	Residential lot	37,600
134	Lot 4718, Poblacion	E-16755	E-8336	596	Rawland	18,000
	VISAYAS					
	CEBU					
1	*Tierra Grande Phase 1 to 3, Talisay*	97 lots		40 to 376 sq.m.	Residential lots	P 3,200 /sq.m.
	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL					
98	Brgy. Balintawak, Escalante City	T-220431	T-145774	1,644	Residential	657,600
99	Zone IV, Murcia		185582	206	Res'l w/ 168 sq.m. imp	371,000
100	Brgy. Guinloliran, San Enrique	T-220417	T-185923	38,390	Agricultural	767,800
101	Cabadiangan, Sipalay	229611	113347	29,800	Agricultural	238,000
102	Sebucawan	226203	124947	21	Agricultural	1,704,000
103	Brgy. Concepcion, Talisay	T-220426	T-155131	7,430	Agricultural	369,600
104	L1212-B-2-B Zone IV, Pulupandan	T-226218	180144	500	Res'l w/ 190 sq.m. imp	550,000
105	L16 B17 Sajo Subd. Brgy. Patik	T-229766	180399	204	Residential lot	143,000
106	L707 Brgy. 5, Poblacion, Moises Padilla b/	T-226217	888-N	3,187	Res'l w/ imp	1,022,000
	b/ Includes 631 sq.m. expropriated by the City Government					
	Bacolod City					
107	Jopanda Subd., Alijis	282852	61269	240	Residential lot	120,000
108	Jopanda Subd., Alijis	282951	61270	240	Residential lot	120,000
109	Lots 1 to 3 B6 Purok Kasagingan Banago	T-282944 to 46170262 to 64		230	Res'l w/ 199 sq.m. imp	281,000
112	Bo. Estefania	282947	200775	1,933	Ind'l/Res'l w/ imp	773,000
113	Lot 1 Brgy Mandalagan	T-276540	T-210785	772	Residential	860,000
114	Bo. Mansilingan	282950	108635	683	Residential lot	546,000
115	Paglaum Village Mansilingan	282272	206429	248	Residential lot	99,000
116	Margen St. Purok Himaya, Mansilingan	T-276536	T-201223	240	Residential	476,000
117	Lot 12 La Salle Ville Subd., Mansilingan	T-282949	155865	219	Res'l w/ 74 sq.m. imp	261,000
118	Poblacion	282948	66097	300	Residential lot	600,000
119	Brgy 32, Poblacion	T-276535	T-81247	149	Residential	968,000
120	Lot 734-B-3 Brgy Sum-ag	T-276538	T-212473	250	Residential	265,000
121	Lot 734-B-7 Brgy Sum-ag	T-276534	T-181555	934	Residential	471,000
122	Lot 734-B-2 Brgy Sum-ag	T-276539	T-213403	495	Residential	466,000
123	Bo. Tangub	282942	166278	120	Residential lot	60,000
124	Bo. Tangub	282943	165948	240	Residential lot	120,000
125	L 21 B 17 Luisa Village, Tangub	T-276531	T-114379	228	Residential	200,000
126	L10 B 31 Manville Royale III, Tangub	T-282953	214355	150	Residential lot	330,000
127	Amethyst St. City Heights, Taculing	T-276533	T-202255	390	Residential	585,000
128	Purok Kawayanan, Brgy. Vista Alegre	T-276537	T-182656	1,838	Residential	927,000
	La Herencia Negrense Subd., Brgy Mandalagan					
129	Lot 1 Block 3	282298	210115	840	Residential lot	1,008,000
130	Lot 16 Block 11	282299	210125	379	Residential lot	417,000
	Teacher's Village, Brgy. Pahanocoy					
131	Lot 13 Block 3	T-276505	T-220589	300	Residential	324,000
132	Lot 14 Block 3	T-276532	T-220588	300	Residential	324,000
	Bago City					
133	L3 B4 DBI Relocation Site, Brgy. Calumangan	30607	23733	115	Res'l w/ 48 sq.m. imp	133,000
134	Brgy. Calumangan	T-28722	T-22391	418	Residential	330,000
135	L2235-A-2 Purok Bacus, Brgy Ma-ao	30295	10881	21,251	Agricultural	425,000
136	L2280-A Brgy. Ma-ao	30600	12310	489	Res'l w/ imp	245,000
137	L2293 Brgy. Ma-ao	30601	16091	455	Res'l w/ 98 sq.m. imp	398,000
138	L2879-A Brgy. Ma-ao	30605	11595	741	Residential lot	401,000
139	L2228-E-1 Purok Pukatod Brgy Ma-ao	30608	24188	1,090	Residential lot	327,000
140	L754-F-4-D Sitio Tambobo, Napoles	30604	23806	4,362	Agricultural	131,000
141	L794-B Sitio Tambobo Brgy Napoles	30606	21244	9,855	Agricultural	246,000
142	L215-H Poblacion	30602	16837	580	Residential lot	464,000
143	L215-G Poblacion	30603	16836	580	Residential lot	464,000
	Cadiz City					
144	Purok Bouganvilla, Brgy. Caduha-an	T-17376	T-13422	2,531	Residential	708,000
145	Lot 6 Block 2 Poblacion	T-17943	13815	150	Res'l w/ imp	150,000
146	L2-C Brgy Luna	T-17944	8879	22,717	Agricultural	568,000
	Andrea Village, Poblacion					
147	Lot 5 Block 18	T-17371	T-14093	350	Residential	140,000
148	Lot 15 Block 21	T-17375	T-3528	350	Residential	345,000
149	Lot 8 Block 27	T-17373	T-13077	268	Residential	196,350
150	Lot 6 Block 27	T-17372	T-13075	263	Residential	196,350
151	Lot 10 Block 27	T-17374	T-13079	274	Residential	202,300
	Calatrava					
152	Brgy Look	T-220427	T-47826	1,439	Residential	581,000
153	Brgy Sn Isidro	T-220425	T-189025	14,829	Agricultural	1,186,000
154	Sitio Sagasa, Brgy. Mahilum	T-220435	T-187024	21,330	Agricultural	149,000
155	Brgy Looc	T-220433	T-115216	200	Res'l w/ Impr 56 sqm	324,000
	Cauayan					
156	Brgy. Mambugsay	T-220428	T-186301	3,043	Agricultural	421,000
157	Calling, Cauayan	226209	113346	3,370	Res./Agricultural	135,000
	Himamaylan					
158	L731-P Brgy. Mambagaton	T-226210	160000	24,444	Agricultural	489,000
159	L1760-B Brgy. Cabanbanan	T-226211	160269	10,739	Agricultural	183,000
	Hinigaran					
160	Carmen Ville	226207	178574	253	Res'l w/ imp	253,000
161	Anahao	226205	159898	12,135	Agricultural	218,000
162	Brgy. Narauis	229830	27035	9,239	Agricultural	148,000
	Villa Angela Subd., Pilar					
163	Block 10 Lot 5	226206	188722	240	Residential lot	57,600
164	Block 10 Lot 6	226202	188723	347	Residential lot	83,280
165	Block 10 Lot 2	226204	188721	240	Residential lot	57,600
166	Block 10 Lot 1	226201	188724	240	Residential lot	57,600
	La Carlota City					
	Villa Rodriguez Subd.					
167	Lot 7 Block 13	T-7747	T-2977	221	Residential lot	110,500
168	Lot 6 Block 11	T-7748	T-2974	221	Residential lot	110,500
169	Lot 9 Block 9	T-7749	T-2976	221	Residential lot	110,500
170	Lot 6 Block 13	T-7750	T-2975	221	Residential lot	110,500
	Sagay City					
171	Brgy. Puey	T-220420	P-9591	54,474	Agricultural	544,740
172	Hambergen St. Municipal Vill, Poblacion	T-220424	T-167260	300	Res'l w/ 138 sqm imp	750,000
173	Achtern St. Municipal Vill, Poblacion	T-220422	T-155768	181	Residential	199,000
174	Rd Lot 1 Sarromar Subd., Poblacion	T-220423	T-167958	195	Residential	99,000
175	L3 B9 Municipal Village, Poblacion I	T-226219	140146	180	Residential lot	180,000
176	L2B1 Municipal Village, Poblacion I	T-226220	142000	300	Res'l w/ 106 sq.m. imp	542,000
177	L2-B Poblacion II,	T-226221	186237	197	Commercial	296,000
	San Carlos City					
178	Brgy. Ando-on	T-17373	T-11977	251	Residential	400,000
179	Caballero St., Caballero Subd. Poblacion	T-17370	T-7780	351	Residential	702,000
180	Rd Lot 7 Villarante Village, Poblacion	T-17371	T-13168	330	Residential	231,000
181	Rd Lot 8 Villarante Village, Poblacion	T-17372	T-3680	308	Residential	139,000
	Toboso					
182	Salamanca	226208	30267	24,245	Agricultural	194,000
183	Poblacion	T-230885	T-135093	500	Res'l w/ Imprv 48 sqm	236,000
						184
	Dumdum Subdivision, Poblacion					
	Lot 3 Block 1	T-220430	T-150988	249	Residential	78,000
185	Lot 5 Block 1	T-220432	T-148629	298	Residential	220,000
186	Lot 5 Block 4	T-220434	T-185793	299	Residential	300,000
187	Lot 4 Block 2	T-220429	T-186306	302	Res'l w/ Impr 80 sqm	544,000
	Valladolid					
188	L307 Burgos St., Brgy. Sagwa Banwa	T-229834	128137	1,188	Residential lot	356,000
189	L558-A-2 Sitio Luna, Brgy Mabini	T-230882	116324	7,465	Residential lot	192,857
190	L624-C-1 Brgy. Mabini	T-230883	117816	1,113	Res'l w/ imp	133,870
191	L624-B-1 Brgy. Mabini	T-230884	117989	450	Res'l w/ imp	188,000
192	L517 Brgy. Palaka	T-230881	85820	16,217	Agricultural	1,297,000
193	Poblacion	229831	153986	500	Residential	250,000
	Echarri Subd., Tabao					
194	Lot 8 Block 7	T-226212	129914	240	Residential lot	90,000
195	Lot 7 Block 7	T-226213	129913	240	Res'l w/ 81 sq.m. imp	212,000
196	Lot 2 Block 4	T-226214	129880	500	Res'l w/ 60 sq.m. imp	350,000
197	Lot 6 Block 10	T-226215	129949	564	Res'l w/ 68 sq.m. imp	289,000
198	Lot 8 Block 6	T-226216	129904	240	Residential lot	48,000

Continued on page B13

Continuation of BSP advertisement from page B12

		TCT No.		Minimum		
	Location	**New**	**Old**	**Area**	**Description**	**Bid Price**
	NEGROS ORIENTAL					
	Sibulan					
199	Brgy Magatas	FT-9026	FV-35127	1,770	Industrial	354,000
200	Brgy Magatas	FT-9206	FV-35128	1,771	Industrial	354,200
	MINDANAO					
	CAGAYAN DE ORO					
1	*Camella Homes- La Buena Vida*	105 lots		37 to 270 sq.m.	Residential lots	P1,500 to P1,700/sqm
	DAVAO DEL SUR					
106	Bo. Pamungol, Don Marcelino	55563	T-42062	49,704	Agricultural lot	149,000
	Digos City					
107	Matti	55562	T-42034	406	Residential lot	61,000
108	Matti	55555	T-42035	649	Residential lot	97,000
109	Bo. Tres de Mayo	55566	T-41882	400	Residential lot	120,000
110	Bo. Ruparan	55565	T-42081	637	Residential lot	127,000
	Malita					
111	New Argao (Tigulab)	55557	T-45489	2,830	Agricultural lot	95,000
112	Bo. Pangian	55559	T-45124	2,776	Agricultural lot	14,000
113	Bo. Talagotong	55558	T-45094	25,843	Agricultural lot	103,000
114	Bo. Lagumit	55567	T-41168	26,286	Agricultural lot	49,000
	Kiblawan					
115	Bo. Ihan	55568	T-40130	49,999	Agricultural lot	150,000
116	Bo. Ihan	55561	T-43707	36,405	Agricultural lot	109,000
	Padada					
117	Poblacion	55560	T-44911	205	Commercial lot	998,000
118	Bo. Tanwalang	55556	T-45763	30,000	Agricultural lot	270,000

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished bid forms enclosed in sealed envelopes shall be on 22 June 2005, 10:00 A.M., at Rm. 313, Five-Storey Bldg, BSP Complex, A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids at Rm. MR3A, Five-Storey Bldg, BSP Complex.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Buyer is deemed to have inspected the property.
2. The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the BSP.
3. The BSP reserves the right to withdraw any or all of the properties offered for sale at any time before the deadline for submission of offers, and to reject any or all bids or to waive any infirmity found therein, or to accept such offers as will be considered advantageous to the BSP.
4. The Committee will immediately start accepting offers for negotiation, in the event of a failed bidding, and will continue to accept offers through the Asset Management Department. However, the Committee may at its discretion, elect to conclude the negotiation immediately after failure of bidding whenever there is a highest complying offeror ascertained.
5. Offerors at the Public Bidding must tender a BID BOND equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price and offerors under the negotiated sale basis must submit an EARNEST MONEY equivalent to 10% of the asking price either in CASH or CASHIER's/MANAGER's CHECK payable to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas which shall form part of the consideration once the offer is approved by the Monetary Board.
6. ALL OFFERS RECEIVED DURING THE AUCTION ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE MONETARY BOARD.

Complete description of the properties, rules and regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available for a minimal fee of P50.00 at the Asset Management Department, Rm. 313, Five-Storey Bldg. through the following:

	Direct Line	Trunk Line: 524-70-11
Ms. Louella Veloro	523-34-86	loc. 2857
Ms. Geraldine Tarlengco	404-21-14	loc. 2835
Mr. Alejandrino Mendoza	523-34-20	loc. 2381
Ms. Ma. Christina Samano	523-34-20	loc. 2381

(signed) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Committee Chairman

(PDI – June 1, 2005)

REGIONAL TRIPARTITE WAGES and PRODUCTIVITY BOARD
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Room 11-C, 11/F, G.E. Antonino Building
cor. T.M. Kalaw & J. Bocobo Streets, Ermita, Manila • Telefax: 527-51-55

WAGE ORDER No. NCR-11

PROVIDING AN INCREASE IN THE DAILY MINIMUM WAGE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

WHEREAS, under R.A. No. 6727, the **Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board - National Capital Region,** is mandated to periodically and progressively assess the wage rates, and to conduct continuing studies in the determination of the minimum wage rates applicable in the region or industry;

WHEREAS, RTWPB – NCR issued Wage Order No. NCR – 10, as amended, granting an Emergency Cost of Living Allowance to all covered private sector workers in the region effective 10 July 2004;

WHEREAS, Section 3, Rule IV of the National Wages and Productivity Commission Revised Rules of Procedure on Minimum Wage Fixing provides that any Wage Order issued by the Board may not be disturbed within 12 months from effectivity and no petition for wage increase shall be entertained within said period, except when there is a supervening condition such as extraordinary increase in prices of petroleum products and basic goods/services which demands a review of minimum wage rates as determined by the Board and confirmed by the Commission;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined, as confirmed by the Commission, that a supervening condition exists in the region due to the abnormal spiraling of oil and petroleum prices which immensely contributed to a drastic increase on the price of basic goods, commodities and services; an escalation of the inflation rate higher than that projected by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; and, the escalating erosion of the purchasing power of the Peso;

WHEREAS, the Board, after due notice to all concerned sectors, conducted consultations and a public hearing with workers' and employers' sectors, the government, and other interested parties in the region on the 17th, 19th and 25th of May 2005, respectively, to determine the propriety of issuing a new wage order;

WHEREAS, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board has deemed it necessary to grant an increase in the minimum wage rates of workers and employees therein in the presence of the supervening condition;

WHEREAS, consistent with the government's policy of achieving higher levels of productivity to promote economic growth and generate employment, and to augment the income of workers, there is a need to build the capacity of business enterprises to be competitive through productivity improvement and gain sharing programs;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested under Republic Act No. 6727, otherwise known as the Wage Rationalization Act, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board - National Capital Region hereby issues this Wage Order

Section 1. AMOUNT OF INCREASE. Upon the effectivity of this Wage Order, all minimum wage workers in the private sector in the National Capital Region shall receive an increase of **TWENTY-FIVE PESOS (P 25.00) per day in their basic pay.**

Section 2. THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES. The new minimum wage rates in the National Capital Region shall be as follows:

INDUSTRY/SECTOR	BASIC WAGE under WO NCR – 11	ECOLA under WO NCR-09	ECOLA under WO NCR-10	TOTAL
Non-Agriculture	P 275	P 30	P 20	P 325
Agriculture (Plantation and Non-Plantation)	P 238	P 30	P 20	P 288
Private Hospitals with bed capacity of 100 or less	P 238	P 30	P 20	P 288
Retail/Service Establishments employing 15 workers or less	P 238	P 30	P 20	P 288
Manufacturing Establishments regularly employing less than 10 workers	P 238	P 30	P 20	P 288

Section 3. COVERAGE. The wage increase prescribed herein shall apply to all minimum wage earners in the private sector in the Region, regardless of their position, designation or status and irrespective of the method by which their wages are paid.

This Wage Order shall not cover household or domestic helpers; persons in the personal service of another, including family drivers; and workers of registered Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBE's) with Certificates of Authority.

Section 4. BASIS OF MINIMUM WAGE RATES. The minimum wage rates prescribed under this Order shall be for the normal working hours which shall not exceed eight (8) hours of work a day.

Section 5. APPLICATION TO PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. In the case of private educational institutions, the share of covered workers and employees in the increase in tuition fees for School Year 2005-2006 shall be considered as compliance with the increase prescribed herein. However, payment of any shortfall in the wage increase set forth herein shall be covered starting School Year 2006-2007.

Private educational institutions, which have not increased their tuition fees for the School Year 2005-2006, may defer compliance with the provisions of this Wage Order until the beginning School Year 2006-2007.

In any case, all private educational institutions shall implement the increase prescribed herein starting School Year 2006-2007.

Section 6. APPLICATION TO CONTRACTORS. In case of contracts for construction projects and for security, janitorial and similar services, the increase in the minimum wage prescribed herein shall be borne by the principal or client of the contractor and the contract shall be deemed amended accordingly; which amendment shall include adjustments in wage related benefits, including but not limited to the 13th month pay, overtime pay, night shift differential, holiday and rest day pay, premium pay and other benefits.

In the event, however, that the principal or client fails to pay the prescribed wage rates, the construction/service contractor shall be jointly and severally liable with his principal or client.

Section 7. WORKERS PAID BY RESULT. All workers paid by result, including those who are paid on piecework, "takay," "pakyaw" or task basis, shall be entitled to receive the prescribed increase per eight (8) hours work a day, or a proportion thereof for working less than eight (8) hours.

Section 8. WAGES OF SPECIAL GROUPS OF WORKERS. Wages of apprentices and learners shall in no case be less than seventy-five (75%) of the applicable minimum wage rates prescribed in this Order. All qualified handicapped workers shall receive the full amount of the minimum wage rate prescribed herein pursuant to R. A. 7277.

All recognized learnership and apprenticeship agreements entered into before the effectivity of this Order shall be considered automatically modified insofar as their wage clauses are concerned to reflect the new prescribed minimum wage.

Section 9. EXEMPTIONS. Upon application with and as determined by the Board, based on documentation and other requirements in accordance with applicable rules and regulations issued by the Commission, the following may be exempted from the applicability of this Order:

1. Distressed establishments;
2. Establishments facing potential losses;
3. Retail/Service establishments employing not more than ten (10) workers; and,
4. Establishments whose total assets including those arising from loans but exclusive of the land on which the particular business entity's office, plant and equipment are situated, are not more than P 3 Million.

Section 10. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION. All applications for exemption from compliance with this Order shall be filed within seventy-five (75) days from the date of publication of the Rules Implementing this Order, with complete supporting documents as specified in the Rules. Failure to submit the required supporting documents within the prescribed period will be tantamount to dismissal of the application for exemption.

The Board may grant a partial or full exemption of one (1) year in accordance with the NWPC Rules on Exemption, but in no case shall any exemption exceed one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order.

Section 11. EFFECT OF APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION. Whenever an application for exemption has been duly filed with the Board, action on any complaint for alleged non-compliance with this Wage Order shall be deferred pending its resolution.

In the event that the application for exemption is not granted, the employees of the applicant firm shall receive the mandated wage increase under this Order, plus one percent (1%) interest per month retroactive to the effectivity of this Order.

Section 12. APPEAL TO THE COMMISSION. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Board may file an appeal to the Commission, through the Board, in two legible copies, not later than ten (10) days from the publication of this Wage Order.

Section 13. PRODUCTIVITY-BASED WAGES. In order to sustain rising levels of wages and enhance competitiveness, businesses are encouraged to adopt productivity improvement schemes such as time & motion studies, good housekeeping, quality circles, labor management cooperation as well as implement gain-sharing programs. Accordingly, the Board shall provide the necessary studies and technical assistance pursuant to Republic Act No. 6971 or the Productivity Incentives Act of 1990.

Section 14. CREDITABLE WAGE INCREASE. An increase granted by an employer in an organized establishment within three (3) months prior to the effectivity of this Order shall be credited as compliance with the prescribed increase set forth herein, provided that an agreement to this effect has been forged between the parties or a collective bargaining agreement provision allowing creditability exists. In the absence of such an agreement or provision in the CBA, any increase granted by the employer shall not be credited as compliance with the increase prescribed in this Order.

In unorganized establishments, an increase granted by the employer within five (5) months prior to the effectivity of this Order shall be credited as compliance therewith.

In case the increases given are less than the prescribed adjustment, the employer shall pay the difference. Such increases shall not include anniversary increases, merit wage increases and those resulting from the regularization or promotion of employees.

Section 15. IMPLEMENTING RULES. The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board - National Capital Region shall prepare the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Order subject to approval by the Secretary of Labor and Employment.

Section 16. EFFECTS ON EXISTING WAGE STRUCTURE. Where the application of the increase prescribed in this Order results in distortions in the wage structure within the establishment, it shall be corrected in accordance with the procedure provided for under Article 124 of the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended.

Section 17. COMPLAINTS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. Complaints for non-compliance with the wage increase set forth in this Order shall be filed with the Regional Office of the Department of Labor and Employment and shall be the subject of enforcement proceedings under Articles 128 and 129 of the Labor Code, as amended.

Section 18. NON-DIMINUTION OF BENEFITS. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as authorizing the reduction of any existing wage rates, allowances and benefits of any form under existing laws, decrees, issuances, executive orders, and/or under any contract or agreement between the workers and employers or employer practices or policies.

Section 19. PROHIBITION AGAINST INJUNCTION. No preliminary or permanent injunction or temporary restraining order may be issued by any court, tribunal or other entity against any proceeding before the Board.

Section 20. FREEDOM TO BARGAIN. The Order shall not be construed to prevent workers in particular firms or enterprises of industries from bargaining for higher wages and flexible working arrangements with their respective employers.

Section 21. PENAL PROVISIONS. Any employer who refuses or fails to pay the prescribed minimum wage rate provided under this Wage Order shall be subject to the penalties specified under R.A. 6727, as amended by R.A. 8188.

Section 22. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision or part of this Wage Order is declared unconstitutional, or in conflict with existing law, the other provisions or parts thereof shall remain valid. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to reduce any existing wage rate, allowance or other benefit under existing laws, decrees, issuance, and orders or under any contract or agreement between workers and employers.

Section 23. EFFECTIVITY. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.

Manila, Philippines, 30 May 2005.

I dissent
(Sgd.) **DANIEL R. ANG**
Labor Representative

(Sgd.) **VICENTE LEOGARDO, JR.**
Employer Representative

I dissent
(Sgd.) **GERMAN N. PASCUA, JR.**
Labor Representative

(Sgd.) **CLETO T. VILLATUYA**
Employer Representative

(Sgd.) **EMMA C. ASUSANO**
Vice-Chairman

(Sgd.) **DENNIS M. ARROYO**
Vice-Chairman

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR.**
Board Chairman

(PDI - June 1, 2005)

Highest average wage hike in CBAs

THE FOOD, beverage and tobacco sectors posted the highest average amount of wage increase in the first to third year of collective bargaining agreements (CBAs).

These were among the findings of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) in its 2005 Collective Bargaining Agreements Survey Report.

The survey revealed that for the first CBA year, the food, beverage and tobacco sectors provided an average wage increase of P18.21 for daily paid workers and P1,900 for monthly paid workers.

Covered by the survey are 18 industry sectors whose CBAs have effectivity periods of 2002-2007, 2003-2008, and 2004-2009. The survey represents 10% of total CBAs filed with the Bureau of Labor Relations with the aforementioned effectivity periods.

Find out more about other indicative trends on cutting edge CBA provisions, particularly in the economic, socio-political and corporate social responsibility provisions through the full survey report. For inquiries or orders, kindly get in touch with the ECOP Research and Advocacy Department at 980-4845, 890-4847, 899-0411 or 897-1329 or e-mail: research@ecop.org.ph

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TANGGAPAN NG PANGULO
(Office of the President)
TANGGAPAN NG SWEEPSTAKES PANGKAWANGGAWA NG PILIPINAS
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
PCSO Complex E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Q.C. Philippines P.O. Box 141

LIST OF VACANT POSITIONS AT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

POSITION	SALARY GRADE	NO. OF VACANT POSITIONS	QUALIFICATION STANDARD
DEPARTMENT MANAGER III	26	1	Bachelor's Degree, 3 years of supervisory experience, None required training, Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE), Career Executive Service (CES)
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II	15	1	Bachelor's Degree; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility
SECRETARY I	7	1	Completion of 2 years studies in college; None required experience, None required training, Career Service (Subprofessional); 1st Level Eligibility
DRIVER II	4	1	Elementary School Graduate: None required experience, None required training, Driver License (MC 11, s. 96 - Cat. II)
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER III	24	3	Masteral Degree, 4 years in positions involving management & supervision; 24 hours of training in management and supervision; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER II	22	3	Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job, 3 years of relevant experience; 16 hours of relevant training, Career Service (Professional), Second Level Eligibility
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER I	19	7	Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job: 2 years of relevant experience, 8 hours of relevant training, Career Service (Professional), Second Level Eligibility
INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST III	19	3	Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job, 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Career Service (Professional), Second Level Eligibility
COMPUTER PROGRAMMER III	18	2	Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job, 2 years of relevant experience, 8 hours of relevant training, Career Service (Professional), Second Level Eligibility
COMPUTER OPERATOR IV	14	7	Completion of 2 years studies in college, or high school graduate w/ relevant vocational / trade course, 3 years relevant experience, 16 hours of relevant training, Career Service (Subprofessional), Data Encoder (MC. 11 96 CAT 1), First Level Eligibility

CERTIFIED CORRECT

(Sgd.) LUZETTE P. JUNIO
DIVISION CHIEF III
HUMAN RES. MGT. DIVISION

(PDI – June 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders/suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

		ABC	Pre-bid Conference (2:00 p.m.)	Bid Opening (2:00 p.m.)
1. Security Services		2,000,000.00	June 15, 2005	June 27, 2005
2. Foodstuff		4,006,429.00	June 16, 2005	June 28, 2005
3. Radiology/Ultrasound/ Internist Supplies		139,905.00	June 17, 2005	June 29, 2005
Medical Gases		5,008,708.00	-do-	-do-
4. Equipment:			June 20, 2005	July 1, 2005
Airconditioner, 3 tons including installation	4 units	408,000.00		
Blood Bank Refrigerator	1 unit	760,000.00		
Upright Freezer	1 unit	50,000.00		
Syringe Pump	5 units	390,000.00		
E-Cart	1 unit	200,000.00		
General Centrifuge	1 unit	100,000.00		
Serofuge	1 unit	100,000.00		
5. Various Instruments		2,087,682.00	June 22, 2005	July 4, 2005
6. RE-BID - Drugs and Medicines			June 23, 2005	July 6, 2005
Dermatological/Disinfectant Supplies			June 17, 2005	June 29, 2005

Bid documents may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office, starting June 1 to June 14, 2005 upon payment of required non-refundable fee. For inquiries, please contact tel. nos. 735-7144, 734-5561 loc. 109.

All of the above activities shall be held at the DJFMH Reception Hall.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waived any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIE THERESE A. PACABIS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 1 & 8, 2005)

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BUSINESS

DEBT SERVICING

Gov't to pursue foreign borrowings

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is set to pursue additional offshore borrowings to raise the bulk, if not all, of the $1.75 billion needed for the remaining foreign debt requirement.

In making the additional borrowing, the national government is seen to capitalize on the positive news generated by the passage of the value added tax (VAT) reform law.

A member of the government's economic team said that the Philippines would like to borrow ahead of schedule by issuing more bonds very soon to hedge against rising global interest rates.

Another source said the government was keen on completing its $4-billion foreign borrowing requirement for 2005 as early as it can this year to avoid paying higher interest rates.

"When you see interest rates abroad rising, the earlier (the borrowings) the better, even if we have a negative carry," the source said.

A negative carry refers to a condition in which the cost of borrowing money exceeds the return obtained from it, usually implying a loss, except when tax advantages result from it.

The source added that the government would like to take advantage of the favorable sentiment generated by the passage of the VAT law—a piece of legislation seen as crucial to the government's fiscal consolidation effort.

The source said that even if the government does not need the funds, it must make the borrowings now "because interest rates are on the uptrend."

It was estimated that the frontloading of borrowings would result in a for or five-month negative carry for the government.

The source also said that the government has mandated US investment banking giant Morgan Stanley to underwrite a new facility involving the securitization of trade inflows.

The mandate has been given to Morgan Stanley during the term of former Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, the source said.

The Philippines, the biggest issuer of sovereign bonds in Asia next to Japan, has tapped the offshore capital market twice so far this year, raising a total of $2.25 billion.

In January, it raised $1.5 billion from the fresh issuance of 25- and 10-year bonds, and another $750 million when the issuances were reopened in May.

The government is sticking to the $4-billion foreign borrowing plan for this year. The amount includes official development assistance from multilateral and bilateral donors.

The borrowing plan represents a 40-60 percent borrowing mix favoring domestic borrowings.

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DOF issues memo barring Customs from negotiating sale of seized goods

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has prohibited the Bureau of Customs to dispose of seized goods through negotiated sales, a move consistent with the government's ongoing crackdown on corruption.

With the directive from the DOF, the Customs bureau can now dispose of "acquired goods" only through public biddings.

Acquired goods may be smuggled items or those whose ownership has been transferred to the government because of the failure of exporters to pay the corresponding duties.

"To ensure that only legitimate persons and businesses participate in public auctions, the DOF is mandating the BOC to require the submission of the latest income tax return of every person, business participating in the auction," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a statement.

To develop the practice of tax compliance, the DOF wants the ITRs to be a requirement for the conduct of any transaction.

The disposition of BOC-acquired goods only through public biddings is expected to improve transparency of said transactions, and prevent cases of corruption that may occur from negotiated sales.

Purisima said the DOF's directive to the BOC was consistent with Section 2610 of the Tariff and Customs Code, which states that negotiated private sale is not a mandatory mode of disposal of goods acquired by the BOC.

The DOF has recently relaunched RIPS (Revenue Integrity Protection Service).

With the service the agency hopes to file corruption charges once every two weeks against erring officials or employees of the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The requirement of ITRs from bidding participants is part of the DOF's revenue-raising strategy.

3-year T-bond rate slips to 9.75%

HIGH volume of bids forced the rate for the three-year Treasury bond to drop to 9.75 percent yesterday, spurring the declining trend of interest rates for short- to long-term government securities.

The latest rate for the three-year T-bond was 75 basis points lower than the 10.5 percent recorded during its previous auction in March.

The Bureau of Treasury's three-year debt offering was highly oversubscribed, as market bids reached P12.36 billion compared with the P4-billion borrowing schedule of the government.

The Treasury's auction committee accepted P4 billion worth of bids, thus raising in full the government's intended borrowing.

"This (high volume of bids) shows ... investors view on the medium term," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a briefing after yesterday's T-bond auction. "There is now a growing confidence in taking the three-year debt paper."

Cruz said the continuing drop in the yields for government securities was an indication that investors have become secure about the government's fiscal capabilities, amid efforts to improve the budget picture.

For the first time in four years, the national government posted a one-month budget surplus last April. The surplus hit P3.3 billion for the month.

The government, however, sees its full-year budget position to still stand at a deficit, although officials said the figure would be much better than the P180-billion target.

The drop in the rate for the three-year T-bond followed an across-the-board decline in the rates for short-term government securities last Monday. *Michelle V. Remo*

GMA 7 sees better figures in Q2

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA NETWORK Inc. has expressed confidence that its earnings in the second quarter would surpass its record results in the first quarter, putting the broadcast giant firmly on track to meeting it full-year profit target of P2 billion.

Felipe Yalong, GMA senior vice president for finance, said 2005 would be another banner year for the company despite increased spending for new ventures.

Last year, the network netted P1.5 billion, making it the most profitable broadcast firm and the country's second-largest taxpayer. It has also claimed to top the ratings, producing 17 of the top 20 television shows in Mega Manila.

"I have seen the May figures and we are confident that the second quarter results would be stronger than the first quarter and against the same period last year," Yalong said in an interview.

Channel 7 registered profits of P400.5 million in the first three months this year, up 62 percent from P246.5 million in the same period in 2004 when advertising load was abnormally high due to the May presidential elections.

GMA president Felipe Gozon said that the first quarter was usually a slow period for most businesses, including broadcast firms unless it was an election year.

But the network's robust performance in the first three months this year, which was expected to spill over to the second quarter, signaled the sustained leadership of GMA in the industry in terms of profitability and ratings, according to Gozon.

The company president said GMA outperformed its fierce competitor, ABS-CBN, by more than 5,000 minutes in the first quarter.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. reported a net loss of P114 million in the first three months this year but vowed to regain market leadership in terms of ratings and profitability.

Gilberto Duavit Jr., GMA executive vice president, said that the projected growth in revenue and profits this year would be achieved even as the company spent quite substantially on two new ventures. One is the international business and the other is the production for Channel 11.

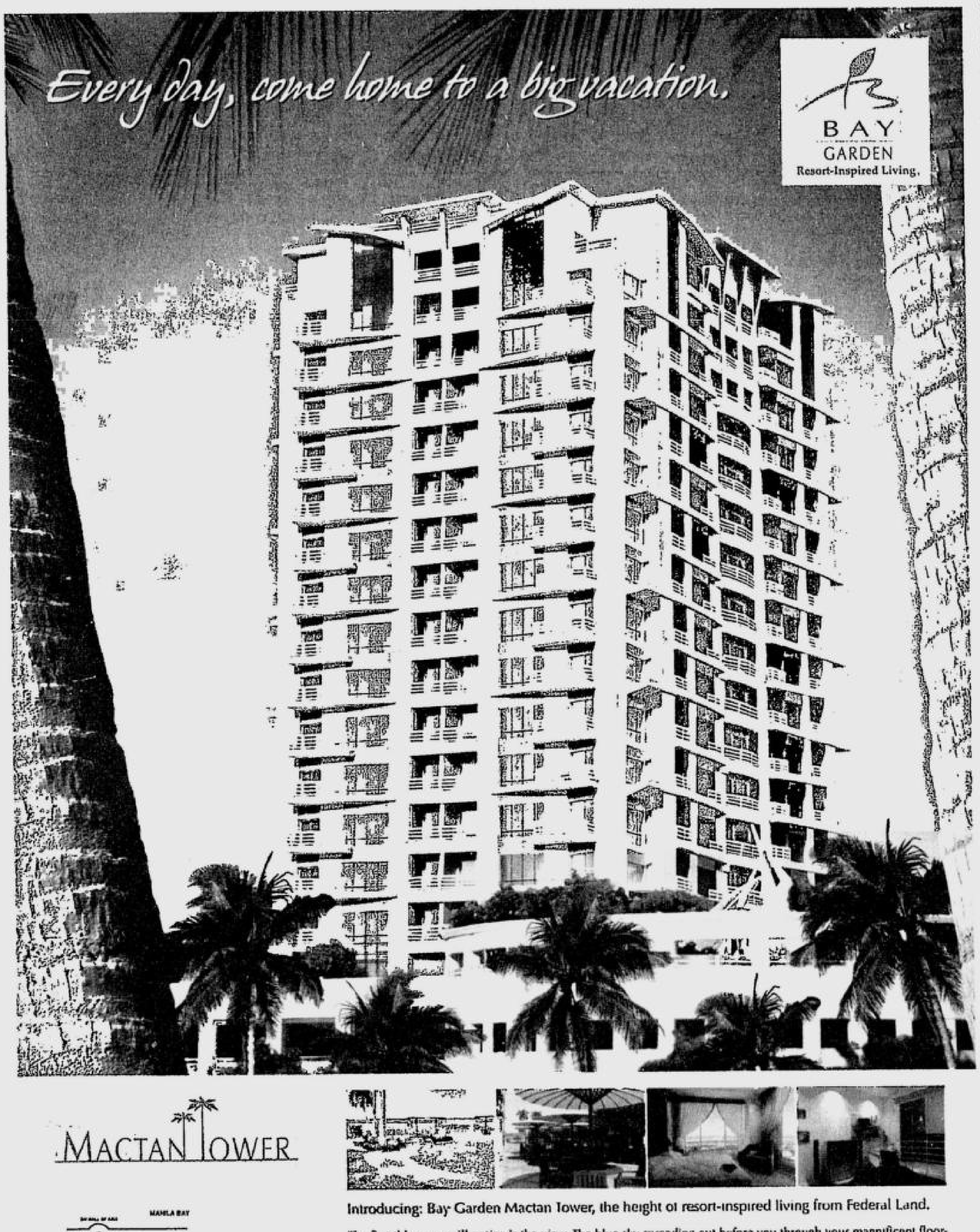
Yalong said GMA's capital expenditures this year may reach about a billion pesos as a result of the ventures. And yet, the company has no plans to borrow.

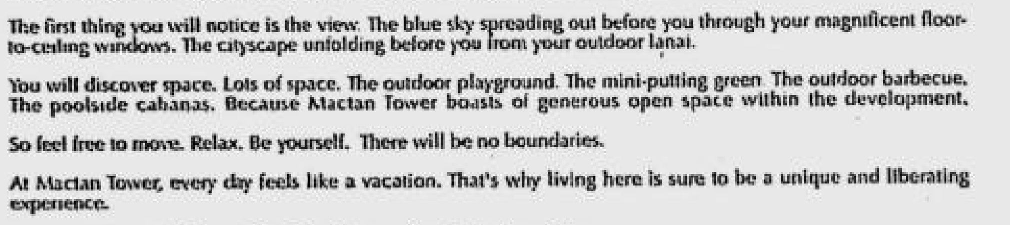
"We have enough internal funds to finance our requirement. We are under leveraged but we really do not need the money," said the finance chief.

GMA paid about P500 million in outstanding loans last year. Gozon said the company was practically debt-free, except for some short-term standby credit.

Unfortunately for investors, GMA had indefinitely deferred its initial public offering, originally set in the first half this year, due to disagreement among its major shareholders.

The families of Menardo Jimenez, Duavit and Gozon control the network.





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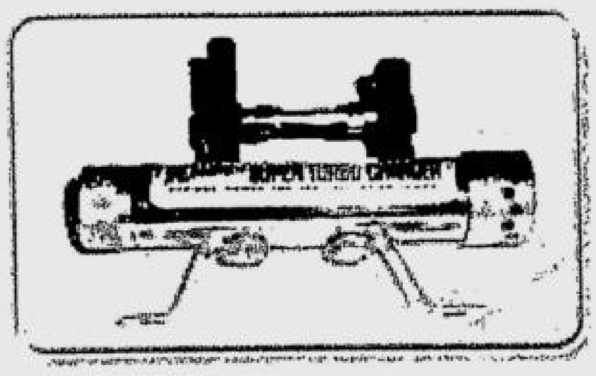
Khaos: clearing the air?

QUIROS hopped in as Khaos technical consultant to be able to better explain to his students how such devices worked or failed.



By Tessa R. Salazar

Second of two parts

AN INQUIRER story reported on the findings of a Department of Energy study showing mileage savings by 15 up to 200 percent using the Khaos Super Turbo Charger installed on a Toyota Corolla taxicab, a Ford Expedition, a Toyota Revo and a Honda Accord.

If the results were true, Rufo said he would still be wary of Khaos' possible "side effects." "The drawback is if you have extra air in the combustion chamber, you will have NOX (nitrous oxide) because the excess air or excess oxygen will not be able to react (with the fuel) anymore. (The excess air that comes out) will react with hydrogen to form nitrous oxide. That is a pollutant," said Rufo.

This reaction, Rufo said, is especially true for modern electronic-controlled engine systems with ECU (electronic control unit), which already maintains the right fuel-air mix. In effect, Rufo explained, installing Khaos in an already fuel-efficient electronic-controlled engine is unnecessary. It is redundant.

Initial tests

In a phone interview on May 23, DoE assistant director Mario Marasigan confirmed there were initial tests subjecting Khaos with a set of vehicles with and without gadgets.

"There were registered readings but these are still inconclusive. First, it lacks consistency; second, there are some readings that are more than what is expected on the savings. We only subjected the gadget to a very specific run," he said.

Marasigan said he is inviting the team of Khaos to subject the product for additional tests with a dynamometer.

DoE has no dynamometer but Marasigan said that should Planas wish to have his Khaos undergo thorough testing, DoE plans to borrow any available chassis dynamometer that the private sector can offer. The DoE has to formulate the test protocol for the thorough tests.

Taiwan demo

Another INQUIRER report showed a Khaos claim of a demonstration in Taiwan resulting in a decrease of carbon monoxide emission levels to 0.1 percent. The report said the result more than satisfied the 0.5 percent standard of Taiwan, and way below the 4.5-percent limit set by the Clean Air Act of the Philippines.

> Quiros: From a professor's point of view, if this was a scam, I should be able to explain why it is so

Gino Bautista, a mechanical engineer and technical consultant of the Inventionhaus of Khaos confirmed the Taiwan demo via phone patch.

Melbourne test

He also confirmed a demo test done by engineers and scientists of Vipac Ltd., which has vehicle emission test facilities in Melbourne, Australia. "It was done as per request by Khaos dealers in Australia that yielded a decrease in carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions," he said.

Bautista said a test done on a carburetor engine yielded a 31.25 percent reduction on carbon monoxide (CO) from 51.42 grams/km to 35.35, and a 60-percent reduction on HC from 0.55 grams/km to 0.22.

An EFI engine yielded a 42.3 percent reduction on CO (from (5.27g/km to 3.04) and an HC reduction of 40 percent (from 0.05 g/km to 0.03). The INQUIRER has yet to obtain a copy of the Vipac results.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau confirmed a Khaos test demo on Sept. 29, 2004.

3 vehicles tested

In a phone interview on Monday, senior environmental management specialist engineer Arturo Bongco said the three vehicles tested—Mitsubishi Gallant 1990 model, Toyota Lite Ace 1992 model and Toyota Revo 2000 model—were fitted with Khaos and all three showed reduction of CO and HC levels.

Bongco said the Gallant without the Khaos had an emission level of 3.01 percent CO, and a 218ppm HC.

After 15 minutes, and still with the same idling of 1,050 rpm, the emission level went down to 0.88 percent CO; and 189 ppm HC.

From a 3.78 percent CO emission and 300 ppm HC emission on the Lite Ace, it yielded an emission level of 0.77 percent for CO; and 275 ppm for the HC when fitted with Khaos.

The Revo, which had 5.36 percent of CO and 292 ppm of HC, yielded an emission level of 4.40 percent for CO and 273 ppm for HC when fitted with Khaos.

Bongco said the DENR is not endorsing Khaos.

"It was just one test. It is still inconclusive," he added.

Scotch Brite?

Even with such seemingly convincing figures, Rufo is unconvinced about the product. "We call it the 'Scotch Brite.' We opened a Khaos product and saw something like Scotch Brite inside. It was claimed to be a filter, but it's Scotch Brite."

"Actually that's the material of the filter," Quiros confirmed. He added that if Khaos is indeed working on their vehicles, "car manufacturers should be the one to explain to us why."

"It could be a Scotch Brite, or a material equivalent to it that was used as a filter. I'm not sure about the brand," said Bautista.

Said Rufo: "Toyota Japan engineers said they purchase devices like Khaos and test them. So far, no fuel-saving device has been proven true. It's mostly for marketing. It's purely a racket," he said.

Carburetor or fuel-injected

Quiros, who admitted he was approached by Pablo Planas' group in 2004 to have the Khaos device tested, said he

KHAOS/ B2

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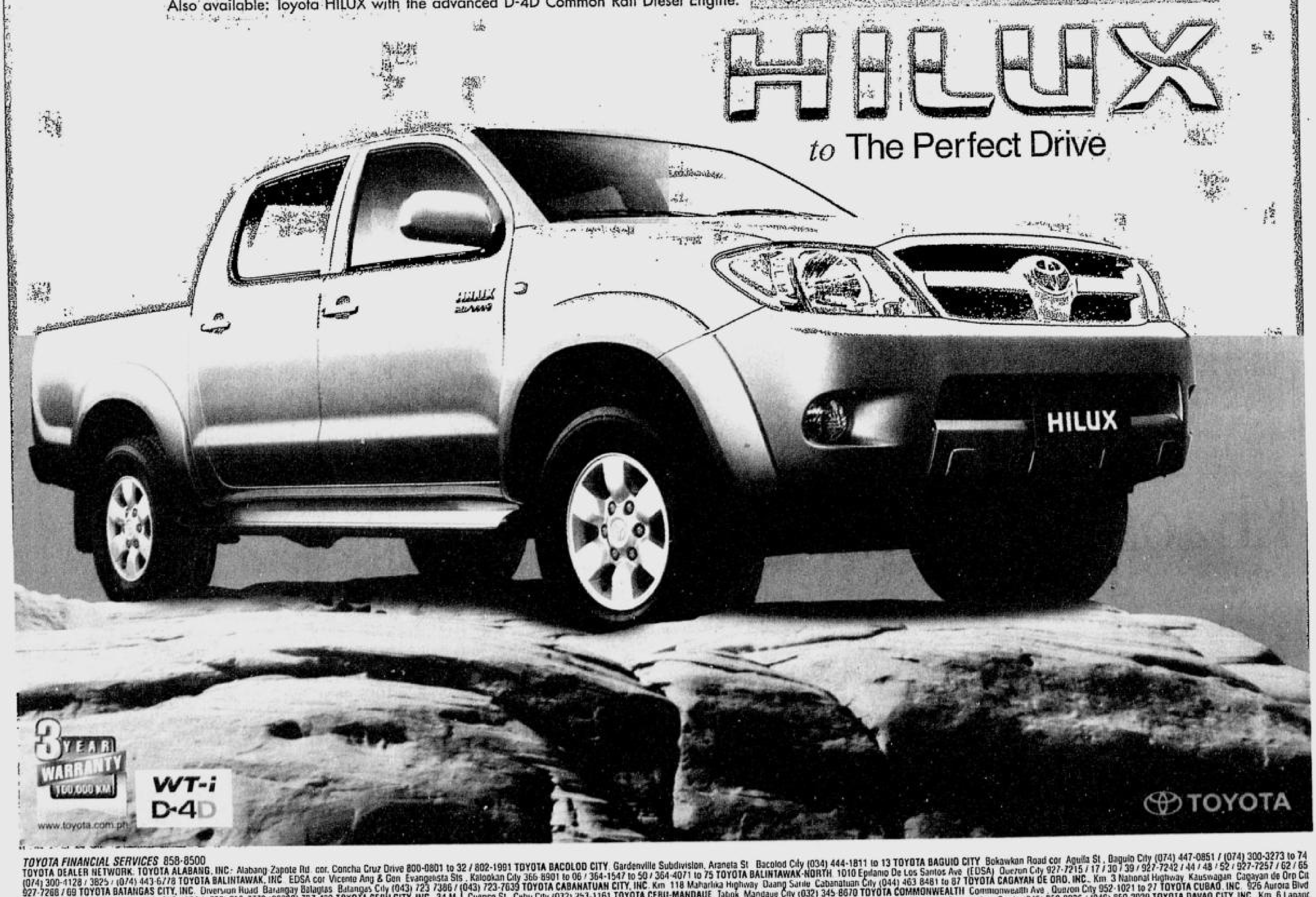

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A fortune from Fortuner; Happy Honda

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

AGAIN, Toyota has a problem it adores: It is swamped with orders for its smashingly handsome Fortuner.

Launched only days ago in glittering ceremonies only a Danny "Sir John" Isla could envision, the Fortuner has whetted the appetite once more of an insatiably vehicle-mad populace. As of this writing, Toyota just couldn't meet the demand for it and its sales force had been kept busy wracking their brains out on how to solve the problem.

"But it's a problem we wouldn't want our competitors to experience," said Ariel de Jesus, Toyota's inimitable spokesman. "It's a problem we'd abhor trading to our rivals. It's a problem we'd take anytime."

* * *

The Fortuner looks like a much-improved version of the Lexus SUV. The Lexus SUV, a consistent bestseller in America, isn't in the local market. I've driven one in Los Angeles some years back, and I tell you it was an experience like no other. So mesmerized was I after the drive that my friend, the owner of the Lexus, said: "You seem to like it. If you want it, you can take it home. I mean it."

He is a millionaire. But I am not. So, freight charges and customs duties and all, I couldn't take it home.

"If you change your mind, just tell me," said my friend, whose huge garage also contained other expensive cars, including the latest Kompressor model at that time.

And I thought only Elvis Presley gave cars to total strangers. Didn't he give his brand-new Cadillac to someone who said to Elvis, "Hey, your Cadillac is so cool I wish I could have one similar to this!"

With the Cadillac, Elvis gave the guy the happiest shock of his life.

I remember whispering to myself when I was leaving my friend's house: "Ah, that Lexus. So near, yet so far away."

There are dreams that can only be dreamed of. But then, isn't dreaming also one of the cheapest forms of entertainment?

* * *

But back to the Fortuner.

Just two days before Vic Agustin said the queue for the Fortuner has stretched to 10 months (whew!), a friend of mine who had placed an order last week said to me, "My golly, I couldn't get my Fortuner until November! Please help me."

"I'll try," I said.

I called up Sir John.

"I'm now being deluged with the same plea," Sir John said, "texting" me back from Tokyo. "I am now almost tempted to ignore texts and calls, but on second thought, I shouldn't. We are coming up with a win-win solution very soon."

The orders just kept pouring in for the Fortuner, assembled at the state-of-the-art Toyota plant in Thailand. It's like rainin' cats and dogs these days at Toyota dealerships nationwide. It is a phenomenon so unreal, given the economic situation.

Our rich will never throw caution to the wind when it comes to buying new cars?

You can bet on that.

* * *

Unknown to many, Honda has also a large assembly plant both in India and Indonesia.

This year, Honda will increase its Indian production capacity from 30,000 to 50,000 units, and in Indonesia from 40,000 to 50,000 units.

Honda's massive production scheme will also see Thailand Honda investing US$25 million, or just over 1 billion baht, to expand CKD parts production for export. The investment will fund a new body panel stamping line, a plastic parts line and a cylinder sleeve production line.

Only last year, Honda's exports from Thailand to more than 70 countries around the world climbed sharply from US$960 million, or 38.7 billion baht in 2003 to US$1.3 billion or 52.4 billion baht.

* * *

India, Indonesia and Thailand are part of Honda's Asia-Oceania region, which is one of six areas comprising Honda's global management structure. It extends from Pakistan to New Zealand but excludes China and Japan.

Even in motorcycles, Honda has been doing very well. Its motorcycle sales in the region during 2004 reached a record 7.5 million units, up 28 percent over 2003 sales of 5.8 million units, with every market also reporting record sales. In both India and Indonesia, Honda's motorcycle sales surpassed the 2-million unit mark. In Thailand, A.P. Honda achieved sales of 1.41 million units in 2004, up 11 percent from 2003.

Sales of automobiles in the Asia-Oceania region hit a record 275,000 units, up 35 percent from 2003 with almost all markets reporting record sales. In both India and Indonesia, Honda's automobile sales more than doubled.

* * *

This year, Honda, according to Tin Tin Reyes, expects to serve a record 22.3 million customers worldwide of which 11.1 million customers, or nearly 50 percent, will come from the Asia-Oceania region.

"For automobiles, Honda plans to sell 310,000 units in the region, up 12 percent from 2004," said Arnel Doria, Tin Tin's tireless boss at Honda Philippines.

In Thailand, where Asia's giant car companies are fighting tooth and nail for supremacy, Honda's target will be 80,000 units, up 9 percent from 2004's record sales.

To support continued sales growth driven by enhanced customer satisfaction, Honda intends to expand its Thai dealer network from 112 to 150 outlets by 2006 and fully utilize its Technical Training Center to train some 6,000 people annually.

Honda exports motorcycles, automobiles, power products and CKD components and parts from Thailand to more than 70 countries around the world, which in 2004 surpassed the 1 billion US dollar mark for the first time. The figures are expected to increase to nearly US$1.45 billion, or 58 billion baht this year. Wow!

* * *

NLEX NOTES. Trucks in the quarry business are now the most undisciplined users of the North Luzon Expressway. At night, they pose danger to limb and lives because they occupy nearly all lanes in wild abandon.

* * *

QUOTE ME. American Airlines saved $40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.

FORTUNER

NMPI kicks off Nissan service storm package

OWNERS of Nissan vehicles have little to worry about during the coming rainy season, as Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) kicks off its Nissan Service Storm package starting today.

Under the promo, which will run until Sept. 30, NMPI offers through its selected authorized dealers a sensibly priced package that will help make for worry-free driving. For only P899, Nissan owners get the following services: the application of the Nissan Magic Windshield Coating System; brake cleaning; tire wear evaluation; 29-point rainy-day inspection.

Promo package

"We believe that this promo package is the best way to make Nissan vehicles safer for road use, especially the older models. Those who avail of the promo will also get the chance to win raffle prizes courtesy of NMPI," explained Jon Gutierrez, NMPI manager for service and customer support.

The Magic Windshield Coating System (MWCS) is a Nissan Japan proprietary product. It is designed to improve drivers' visibility during heavy rains to prevent possible collisions or accidents. The MWCS applies a super-fluorine coating on the car's windshield that delivers an excellent water-repelling effect, giving a clear field of vision on rainy days.

One application of Magic Windshield Coating can last up to six months, or enough to last the whole rainy season, as compared to ordinary windshield applications.

For the brake-cleaning component, the brake system of Nissan vehicles will be cleaned to make it more efficient during the rainy season. In the Philippines, vehicles are usually exposed to floods, which leads to the accumulation of dirt, which can reduce its braking efficiency. Muddy floodwaters make it worse for vehicles, specifically if a vehicle is constantly driven in such conditions.

The tire is one of the most commonly neglected components of the vehicle.

Since the tires are visible to the driver, it is usually assumed that there is no problem with it until a tire-related problem occurs. Under the tire wear evaluation component, selected authorized dealers will assess the wear level of all four tires, and make recommendations if a tire rotation or change is in order. Worn-out tires have lesser ability to resist slipping, and to disperse water, which can be dangerous when traveling at high speeds and during braking.

Based on NMPI's surveys, many vehicle owners hardly check the condition of their tires, and simply rely on the recommended tire change intervals.

Value for money

Nissan jackets, polo shirts, umbrellas, travel mugs, caps and a lot more await lucky patrons of the promo.

"All in all, our package offers one of the best in terms of value for money, and one that will truly benefit owners of Nissan vehicles, especially the older models," said Gutierrez.

"So even if the heavy rains have not yet become frequent, we advise Nissan car owners to go to their nearest selected authorized dealer to avail of our Nissan Service Storm Package," he added.

Altering the way SUVs are defined

ISUZU introduces the Alterra, the new lifestyle recreational vehicle with the refinement of a passenger car and the brute force of a sport-utility vehicle.

Isuzu is about to alter the commercial-vehicle landscape by introducing another winner that is not only brutishly hardworking but also urbanely luxurious and comfortable. Welcome the all-new Alterra, Isuzu's new sport recreational vehicle that has all the good looks of an SUV, all the versatile features of a multipurpose mover, and all the creature comforts of a passenger sedan.

Clean, sleek

The Alterra looks clean and sleek but subtly aggressive.

Its other noteworthy design cues include special-design side step board that perfectly matches the over-fender; elegant 16-inch aluminum alloy wheels with 245/70 R16 tires; upscale large, crystal headlamps with fog lamps; LED-type turning lights on side mirrors; color-keyed roof rail; rear windshield defogger; rear door integrated spoiler with third brake lamp; and chrome tailpipe finisher.

Power plant

More important than the attractive styling, however, is the power plant residing under the Alterra's hood. Designated the 4JJ-1 I-TEQ, this third-generation DOHC common-rail direct-injection diesel engine supplies no less than 180 megapascals (MPa) of pressure to its electronically controlled injection nozzles. Common-rail pressure is the main key to better diesel engine performance, since higher pressure naturally results in a more efficient fuel combustion.

The amount of pressure in the Alterra's 4JJ-1 I-TEQ engine is already enough to cut through glass cleanly with water as medium.

The 3.0-liter 4JJ-1 I-TEQ diesel, in 16-valve double overhead camshaft (DOHC) configuration, produces a maximum of 146 ps of power, representing a 20 percent improvement from a noncommon-rail unit. Maximum torque is also impressive at 30 kg-m, available at a considerably long range, from as low as 1,400 to as high as 3,400 rpm. These robust figures are the results of the new common-rail system's precise fuel injection and enhanced combustion chamber design.

Another important feature of the new engine is the Swirl Control Valve Actuator, which greatly improves swirling motion during high and low engine speeds for an optimum mixture of air and fuel.

The huge amount of pressure inside the rail of the new engine guarantees the well-timed, proportionate and accurate delivery of fuel at any speed, thus enabling the engine to achieve a 15 percent improvement in fuel efficiency.

Environment-friendly

As for environment-friendliness, the 4JJ-1 I-TEQ has electronically controlled emission system that meets Euro-3 standards.

Further, the new mechanical features of the 4JJ-1 I-TEQ all work for a more silent operation with significantly less vibration. First, the multi-injection system lessens the jerking motion brought about by the sudden turning of the crankshaft. Second, the backlash eliminator keeps the gears in constant contact with one another. Third, the secondary balancer lessens the shock and noise created by the engine's sequenced alternating combustion. Fourth, the damper flywheel features a shock-absorbing mechanism, helping minimize the noise and vibration when the engine and the transmission come into contact. Lastly, the exhaust silencer plates act to redirect the noise produced by the combustion.

The 4JJ-1 I-TEQ is mated to either a five-speed manual transmission or a four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive, grade logic, direct electronic shift control and power mode.

Another technological feature of the Alterra is its advanced suspension system. Called the Flex Ride move suspension, this system features independent double wishbones with torsion bar and gas-sealed, twin-tube multipiston shock absorbers in front and Flex Ride leaf springs in the rear.

Passenger cabin

As if the Alterra's styling and performance aren't already enough, Isuzu bestowed it with a generous and versatile passenger cabin. Accommodations boast seats in three rows that can be arranged in 48 different ways.

The front seats can be reclined 180 degrees, while the second row seats can be adjusted individually to allow easy access to the third row. The middle seat of the second row can be folded as a utility tray or to make way for a walkthrough alley to the third row. Third row seats, meanwhile, are spacious and comfortable with a utility armrest on which books or bottles can be stacked.

Passenger convenience

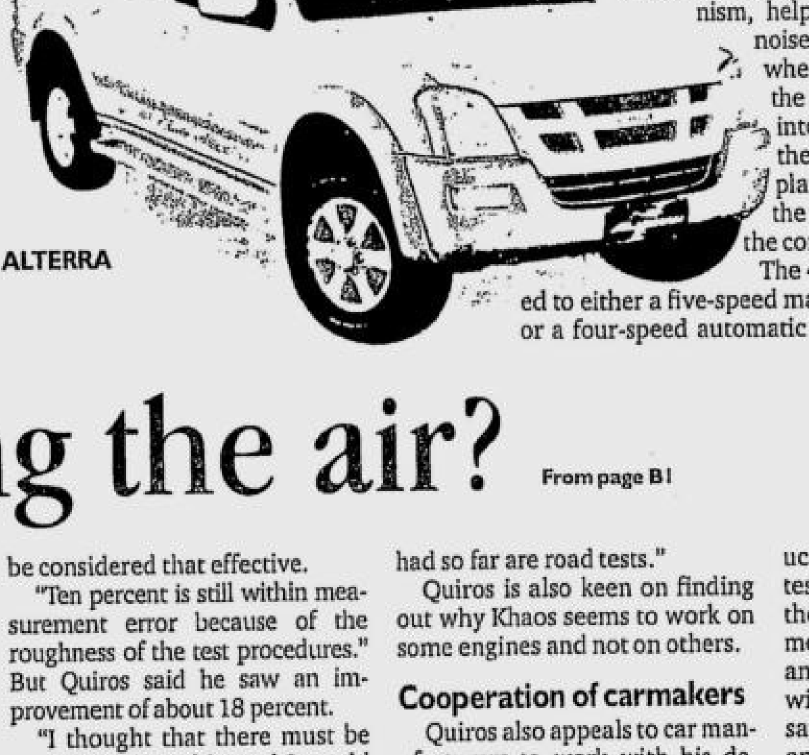
More passenger convenience is provided by front, middle, and rear air-condition vents, conveniently integrated with the headlining; and five cabin lights on three sections with separate control switches.

Inside, the all-new Alterra is teeming with recreational appointments, including 11 speakers with tweeters, strategically installed in the vehicle interior, plus a subwoofer and an amplifier; a DVD head unit with a 5.1 channel digital decoder which can play DVD, VCD, CD, MP3, WMA and CD-R; theater-quality digital sound is available to provide the ultimate listening experience; lockable globe box with light; coat hook; map lamps with sunglass holder; second-row reading lamps; 12-volt accessory power socket; and numerous pockets and cup holders.

For safety and security, the Alterra is equipped with dual front airbags; ABS with electronic brake force distribution and gravity sensors; keyless entry with anti-theft immobilizer system; child-proof locks; and backup sensors.

The all-new Alterra is available in 4x2 manual and automatic transmissions.

Check out the difference in luxury and power of the Alterra, and let Isuzu alter your perception of the SUV!



ALTERRA

Khaos: clearing the air?

From page B1

now wears two hats: one as an associate professor of UP mechanical engineering and the other as technical consultant of Khaos. This is the reason, he said, for his keen interest on the issue surrounding Khaos.

Had the professor considered the different effects Khaos would have on older, carburetor-fitted engines and on the newer, fuel-injected systems?

"I tend to think of it that way, too," Quiros mused.

A fuel-saving device could work on carbureted engines because they don't have the "brains" yet to control the inflow of fuel and air. For fuel-injected engines, computer correction is enough.

Quiros narrated that when Planas visited his facilities for a test, the dynamometer was not available. The group then settled for a road test with a set 100-km route around UP campus.

"We used a Honda Accord 2000 model, automatic transmission, and definitely fuel injected. We set the parameters such as the distance and average velocity."

The group of Quiros and Planas did runs with and without Khaos fitted under the hood, keeping in mind the identical parameters that should be set for every run.

The runs were conducted in a span of two days, using the same driver and the same vehicle load. Quiros told Planas then that if the results showed only a 10 percent difference, then Khaos wouldn't be considered that effective.

"Ten percent is still within measurement error because of the roughness of the test procedures." But Quiros said he saw an improvement of about 18 percent.

"I thought that there must be something into this, and I would like to find out more that's why I joined them."

He added, "From a professor's point of view, if this was a scam, I should be able to explain why it is so."

At present, Quiros said he is in the process of evaluating the performance of the device. "Once our chassis dynamometer becomes operational, we will have this device tested rigorously on an engine test bed. What we have had so far are road tests."

Quiros is also keen on finding out why Khaos seems to work on some engines and not on others.

Cooperation of carmakers

Quiros also appeals to car manufacturers to work with his department to find out if fuel-saving devices really work. He added that it would be important for consumers to know right away which vehicles and models certain devices do not work on.

Quiros said the Khaos management has expressed its willingness to return payment if it has been determined that the device doesn't work on the customer's car.

Said Quiros: "Khaos says that if you have doubts about the product, perform the tank test (road test). If there is no fuel savings, the device will be returned, the money you used for the device and the fuel used during the test will be returned to you in full. I'm saying this as Khaos consultant and as a professor."

He advises people who have questions about the product to visit its website www.khaos.ph and e-mail the questions there.

Void warranties

Quiros cautions consumers before installing Khaos on cars still under warranty: "Any modifications you perform on the engine, including attachment of a fuel-saving device, will void the vehicle's warranty. Khaos has indicated it in its manual."

In mythology, Khaos was the name of the goddess of wind or air. Why is it called superturbo charger?

"It's strictly a preference of Planas for purely marketing reason but there is nothing about the device that has to do with the turbo charger. In fact if the engine is turbocharged or supercharged, this device should not be used, otherwise the air will leak out *(palabas)*," said Quiros.

Amid the questions surrounding the fuel-saving device Planas has created, it seems no other name is more apt at the moment.

E-mail the author at tsalazar@inquirer.com.ph.

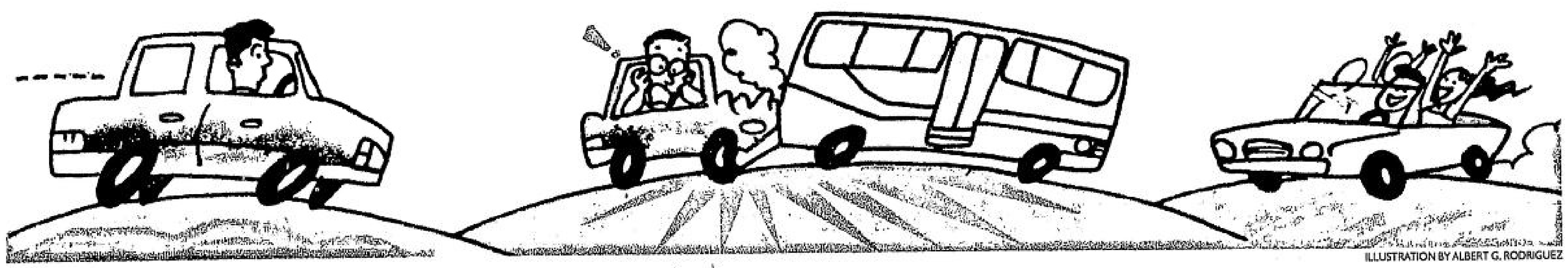


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

A journey

CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

IT IS not difficult to recall my first time behind the wheel of a car and not an exaggeration to call this memory a significant human experience; a coming of age, if you will. The image is still fresh, if not already poetically embellished, in my mind. I will forever remember the day as a good one and it is likely possible that this is the single biggest reason that my boyish enthusiasm for cars and driving persists to this day.

It was a balmy Sunday afternoon in October and a clueless yet determined student was struggling with the manual transmission of the family car: a Nissan California. The city's colors had already changed from the dull muted hues of the rainy season to the argent and antiseptic white light that bathes Manila during the months leading up to the Christmas season.

Empty of any traffic, the streets were merciful; forgiving me as I stalled the metallic green wagon over and over again. All the day seemed to lack was third person background commentary and it could have easily passed for an episode of the "Wonder Years."

My first car accident

These idyllic and wide-eyed times would not last forever. In a manner befitting literary tragedy, the fates decided to involve me in my first car accident—right on my seventeenth birthday—the very day I became a legally licensed driver. It was 10 a.m. of a particularly hazy day where a few moments of inexperience cost me my blue Daihatsu Feroza.

Tailgaters do pay the price for their folly and that day the bill was mine. In the longest, most vivid five seconds of my formative years, I locked the little SUV's brakes and skidded slightly sideways into a rapidly decelerating bus. The balance of my birthday was spent at the local police station, complete with whiplash, a bruise on my forehead and a wry birthday greeting from a wise-crack traffic investigator.

Fear

This bus altercation practically ended my desire to drive. Terror and anxiety found me, even in the passenger seat of the car headed home from the accident.

The level of fear was ridiculous. Every bump on the road felt like it would send the car careening into the next. Every brake light triggered a doubt whether this car would be able to stop in time—even in 10 kph traffic. Posttraumatic stress, only supposed to be reserved for the shell-shocked and the battle-weary was beginning to rear its ugly head.

Back on the road

What salvaged my want and ability to drive was my friends. Their simple act was to take me out for *merienda* (snacks), tossing me the keys of the Galant Lambda we would be using.

Through this deed of consideration and sheer confidence, my *(barkada)* gangmates let me re-take the wheel and this sent me on my way. They are, in no small manner, responsible for putting me back on the road. From an event that was quantitatively tragic came acts of a certain quality that have made me a safer driver and a better human being.

Many driving episodes

Much has transpired since then, I have had many considerable and beautiful driving episodes but also a few that have had me literally reeling from the experience. This is the dynamic of chance that we must face on a daily basis as we ply the less than perfect roads of our society.

Every time we step out of our front doors to work or play—we risk. The first time anyone fires up the ignition of a car and begins to learn the rules of the road, they risk damage and harm, but they also "risk" being introduced to the near unlimited freedom of driving and the beauty of the automobile.

Lessons

Accidents will happen. This is an inevitability given the level of discipline and lack of education that is licensed to drive on Philippine roads. We must see these events as lessons, both in the physical act of driving and in the philosophical act of sharing the road with friends and the less friendly.

I'll be honest: this "exercise in explanation" is in response to the many who have asked if it is the right time for their child to begin driving and to the few who have bravely asked if it is ever too late to begin. Many express concern about safety and security issues of driving today.

Strain as you may, there are no statistics or instruments that can convincingly sway any of the arguments in either direction. All I can share is my story and it is just one among the myriad of motoring stories out there, woven on a daily basis on our nation's streets. So my answer is simple, learn how to drive, whatever the age and circumstance, and add your own journey to our streets.

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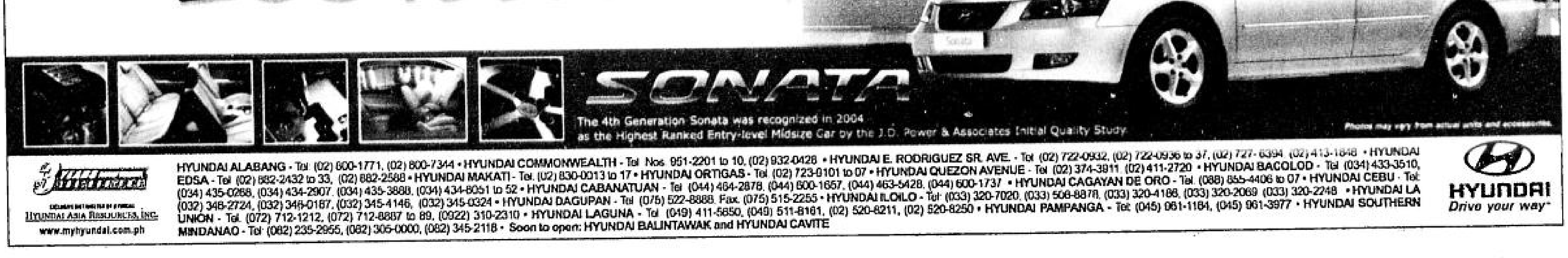
THE NEW GENERATION SONATA

Iconic.



The 4th Generation Sonata was recognized in 2004 as the Highest Ranked Entry-level Midsize Car by the J.D. Power & Associates Initial Quality Study

Photos may vary from actual units and accessories.

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Is the era of big SUVs ending?

SALES of the Ford Explorer, America's best-selling midsize SUV, fell 14.6 percent last April in the US.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

CAR buying trends in advanced countries come to influence us relatively late in the game because we have a tiny Third World market. This is especially true of consumer trends in the United States, which has the richest car market in the world and which we, as a former colony, try to ape in every way whether good or bad.

So the question naturally arises: when and how will the slumping sales of gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles (SUVs) in the United States affect us? As oil prices rose, General Motors, the world's biggest auto manufacturer, reported a first quarter loss of $1.1 billion, its worst quarterly loss in more than 12 years. Sales of GM's big SUVs like the Suburban, Yukon and Tahoe plunged by more than 20 percent, forcing GM to slash production. The slide continued into April, when GM sales fell 7.4 percent from a year earlier mainly because of weak demand for their cash cows.

Losing

For the same reason, Ford Motor Co. is also losing market share in the United States. In April, Ford sold 5 percent fewer vehicles than a year ago, its 11th consecutive year-on-year decline in sales and its 26th month of market share decline, according to Datamonitor Commentwire. Ford reported that sales of its Explorer, America's best-selling SUV, fell 14.6 percent in April compared with April 2004. Ford had to scale back its earnings forecast for 2005 and abandon the cornerstone profit goal of its three-year-old turnaround plan.

In sharp contrast, year-on-year sales at Toyota, Honda and Nissan rose by 21.3 percent, 13.6 percent and 27 percent, respectively, while Korea's Hyundai Motor Group's two brands, Hyundai and Kia, together now hold 4.1 percent of the total US car and light-truck market.

In the first week of May, largely because of increasing concern about the Big Two's continued dependence on SUVs for most of their profits despite plummeting sales, ratings agency Standard & Poor's Corp. reduced the credit standing of GM and Ford to junk status, or below investment grade

Hybrids

Meanwhile, sales data gathered by R.L. Polk & Co. show an 81 percent increase in new hybrid vehicle registrations in 2004 in the United States over the previous year with Toyota and Honda accounting for more than 96 percent. The hybrid market has grown by 900 percent since 2000 and although the dual electric and gasoline-powered vehicles still represent less than 1 percent of the 17 million new vehicles sold in the US last year, major carmakers led by hybrid pioneers Toyota and Honda plan to launch about a dozen new hybrids, notably hybrid SUVs, in the next three years.

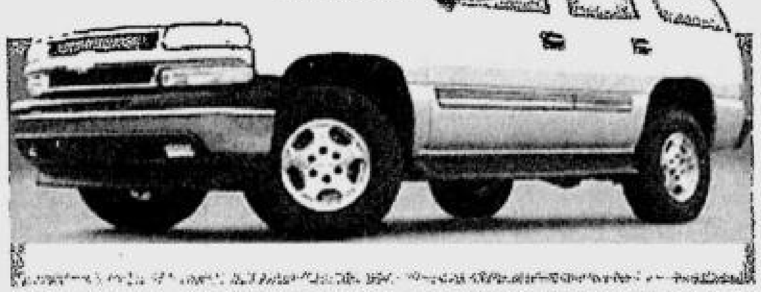
GM and DaimlerChrysler already sell hybrid pickups but the system they use is less fuel efficient than the Japanese carmakers'. The Ford Escape hybrid, which cornered 3 percent of the hybrid market in 2004, uses Toyota hybrid technology under license.

An era ends

The rapidly growing popularity of hybrids and faltering sales of thirsty SUVs have prompted some auto industry analysts to declare the end of an era. They say that huge profits gained from sales of big SUVs and pickup trucks for more than two decades allowed GM and Ford to offset the money lost on their unprofitable small and midsize cars. In the affordable new car segment, the Big Two exerted little effort to catch up with the high productivity, quality and durability of Japanese brands, lulled as they were into complacency by SUV profits.

Now that the spike in oil prices is weaning American buyers away from big SUVs in favor of the smaller, fuel-efficient, smoother-riding and more maneuverable Asian and European car-based vehicles called "crossovers" and formerly known as station wagons, the Big Two are under pressure to come up with models that would replace the profit margins they once enjoyed on SUVs.

The woes of GM and Ford are further exacerbated by the heavy health care and postretirement liabilities of their high, unionized US employment base, a burden that Asian carmakers do not carry. Moreover, the light truck segment, which still offers greater profit opportunity than cars, has already been invaded by Japanese auto manufacturers like Toyota, Nissan and lately, Honda. The enormity of the crisis is underscored by the conclusion of a University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute study that in 2004, combined large and midsize SUV profit for GM, Ford and Chrysler was almost $7 billion less than in 2001. GM's US market share has slipped from more than 40 percent in the mid-1980s to barely 29 percent today while Asian vehicle sales continue to climb.



LARGE GM SUVs like the Chevrolet Tahoe (above) skidded 20 percent in sales in the first quarter of 2005.

New lineup

To turn the tide, Ford is scrambling to cut development costs enough to create a new lineup of cars and crossovers that will earn a respectable profit. GM, on the other hand, is betting that sales of traditional, truck-based SUVs will rebound next year, so it is redesigning its large SUVs for improved fuel mileage and a less trucklike ride.

Going back to the original question, how will all this affect our car market? Maybe, considering how far behind we are in automotive trends, more big SUV models—or cheaper, because dumbed-down, versions thereof—will enter the market the same way that the US cigarette manufacturing giants turned to China and other Asian markets when health concerns and laws banning cigarette commercials dampened cigarette sales in North America. Even though the era of big, gas-guzzling SUVs may be ending in the United States, it will take some time for it to end here despite the volatile oil prices and our mindless aping of American habits.

(With reports from The Asian Wall Street Journal, Associated Press, Bloomberg News, The New York Times and Agence France Press)

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: The meek will Internet the world.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

CUSTOMERS can take advantage of the superb value of BMW 3 Series Executive cars (model E46) offered at preferential prices with flexible payment terms.

BMW's sheer driving pleasure for just P802 per day

WHILE THE RECENT introduction of the new BMW 3 Series has generated a remarkable impact in the premium car segment, its predecessor also continues to appeal to BMW enthusiasts as a worthy investment in sheer driving pleasure.

As the best-selling BMW to date, the previous 3 Series (model designation E46) offers exceptional driving dynamics and superb product substance that compares positively to other cars in its class. And while there are no longer any brand-new units of this model, customers can still enjoy the dynamism and sportiness of the E46 by availing of a limited number of 3 Series Executive cars.

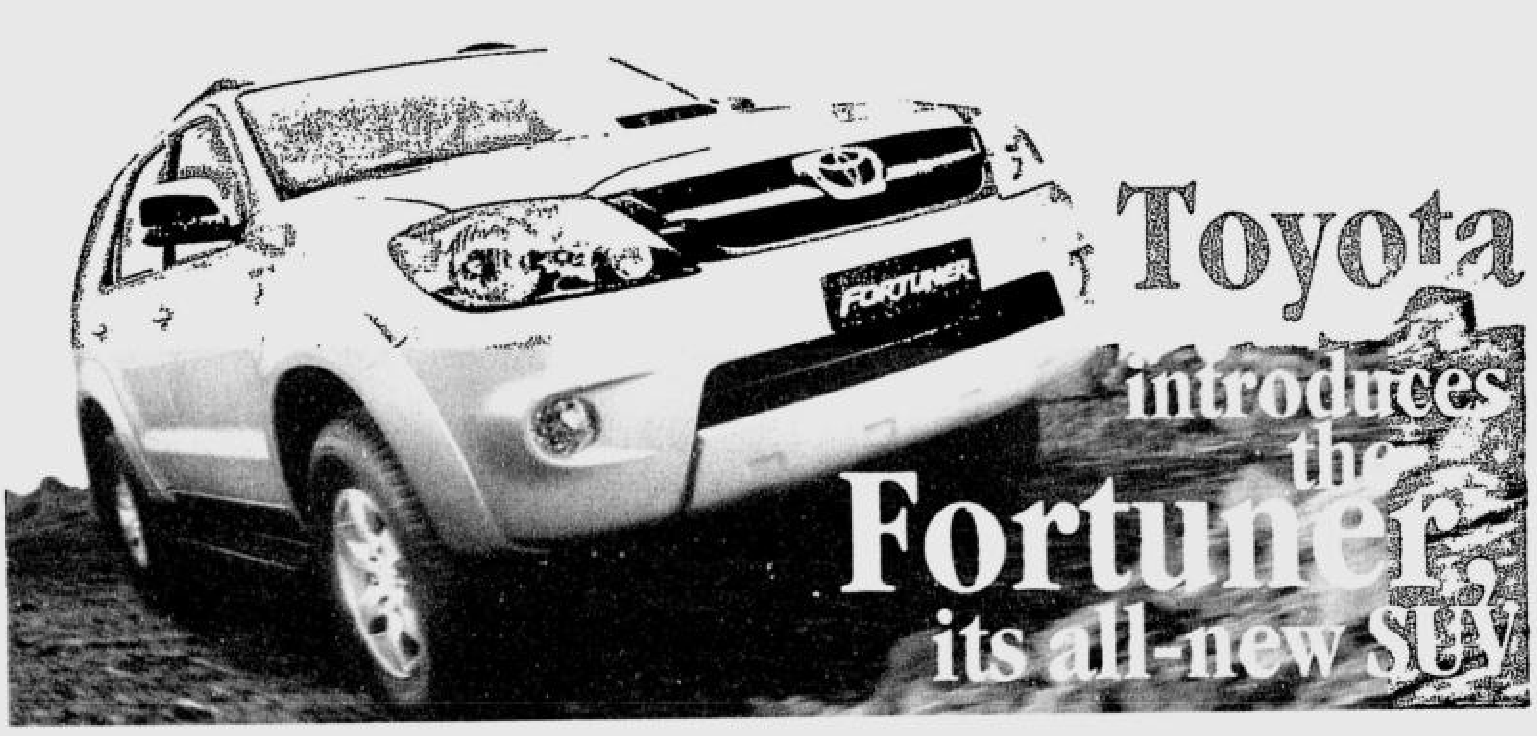
3 Series Executive cars are low mileage vehicles specially selected and used by top BMW executives, as well as exceptionally well-maintained demo vehicles. Covered by comprehensive new car warranty, these cars offer the reliability and driving enjoyment expected from BMW.

Easy ownership terms

Adding to the superb value of these 3 Series Executive cars, customers can also avail of flexible, easy ownership terms. For instance, customers have the freedom to select balloon payment terms of as much as 60 percent, thereby allowing low down payments and monthly installments for as little as P802 per day. In context, that's the same as paying for a bottle of wine, a silk tie, or a day at the gym.

Balloon payments, which can be extended to as much as 48 months, likewise allow BMW customers to take advantage of BMW's high residual value by either refinancing or trading in their vehicles at the end of the term.

BMW Executive cars with easy payment terms are available at authorized BMW dealers: Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Premier Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).



Toyota introduces the Fortuner, its all-new SUV

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. announces the much-anticipated introduction of its all-new sports utility vehicle under the IMV project—the Fortuner.

The all-new Toyota SUV completes the Innovative International Multipurpose Vehicle (IMV) lineup together with the Hilux pickup, which was introduced in December last year, and the Innova Multipurpose Vehicle, which was recently launched last February.

The new Fortuner boasts of a bold exterior design, plush interior, optimum safety features and cutting edge technology. It is set to lead the SUV market with the best balance of an urban image complemented by its rugged and tough features.

Large exterior design

With its overall dimensions of 4,695 mm by 1,840 mm by 1,795 mm, the Fortuner is not just the biggest vehicle in its class, but the most stylish as well. Its eye-catching, aerodynamic exterior design incorporates a color-keyed, chrome-accented front grille that gleams with sophistication.

The Fortuner's multireflector quad headlamps are not just for esthetics but for functionality as well, that also features enhanced night-driving visibility. Multireflector fog lamps beautifully integrated to its wraparound bumper, prepare the driver for vision-hampering challenges ahead.

Chrome side-view mirrors and door handles emphasize the Fortuner's refined attributes with a touch of class, while the sporty roof rails make it ready for weekend warriors who require huge load requirements. Black side steps, a higher door frame height (1,105 mm), a wider door opening (1,030 mm), a lower entry height from ground (360 mm) all add convenience in passenger entry and exit.

The Fortuner's over fenders are a perfect match to its 16-inch alloy wheels mounted on high-profile all-terrain 265/70R16 tires that puts together a rugged symmetry. The rear spoiler with integrated LED High-mount stop lamps is a handsome and aerodynamic safety feature. Multireflector rear combination lamps are highly visible and effective and contribute to the Fortuner's cohesive rear-end design.

Spacious interior

From this large exterior design comes the Fortuner's spacious interior which gives seven passengers superior comfort, ample leg room space and high-quality amenities. Ivory hues that soothe the eyes with its elegant touch, sleek contours on its dashboard, and an ergonomic interface that gives the driver a unique experience of luxury and control, are all that is found inside the Fortuner.

The true measure of the Fortuner's power is found in the heart of this vehicle—either a 3.0-liter Toyota D4D Diesel Engine or a 2.7-liter VVT-i engine.

Safety

One cannot begin to experience comfort without the assurance of safety. That is why the Fortuner is designed with various safety features inside and out. The antilock braking system or ABS enables the driver to steer the Fortuner to avoid collision, even during hard braking.

Life-saving dual SRS airbags for the driver and passenger reduce the chances of serious injury especially from major frontal collisions. Toyota's Global Outstanding Assessment or GOA puts a premium on passenger on protection and this enables the Fortuner to have reinforced cabin, side-impact beams, head-impact protection, special crumple zones, collapsible steering column and an anti-intrusion brake pedal.

Variants, colors

The Fortuner will be available on Philippine roads this month and is offered in two variants under the 4x4 3.0-liter diesel automatic V grade, and the 4x2 2.7-liter gasoline automatic G grade. A wide array of colors depending on the customers' preference: super white 2, silver metallic, grayish brown metallic, black mica and dark gray mica metallic.

With the Fortuner, together with the other IMV models Hilux and Innova, Toyota has begun to establish a benchmark of excellence for both the MPV package and the art of cutting edge design.

SORENTO CRDI DIESEL

Unveiling Kia's new breed of cars

THE NEW KIA, Sorento CRDi Diesel ushers in Kia's bold incursion into the league of big pedigreed sport utility vehicles (SUVs).

The Korean carmaker, made famous by its compact cars Picanto and Rio that were runaway bestsellers in Europe and the Americas in 2004, saw in the Sorento a wise option for buyers who prefer a relatively bigger vehicle that didn't have the menacing presence of massive SUVs.

Power and performance

"Here is a car that has the look, power and presence that younger buyers choose in an SUV," says Felix J. Mabilog, chief operating officer of Columbian Autocar Corp., manufacturer and distributor of Kia in the Philippines. The flexibility "Powered by a 5-speed automatic High Intelligence Vehicle Electronic Control (Hivec) transmission with adoptive sequential shifting, to weave in and out of tight traffic situations," he adds.

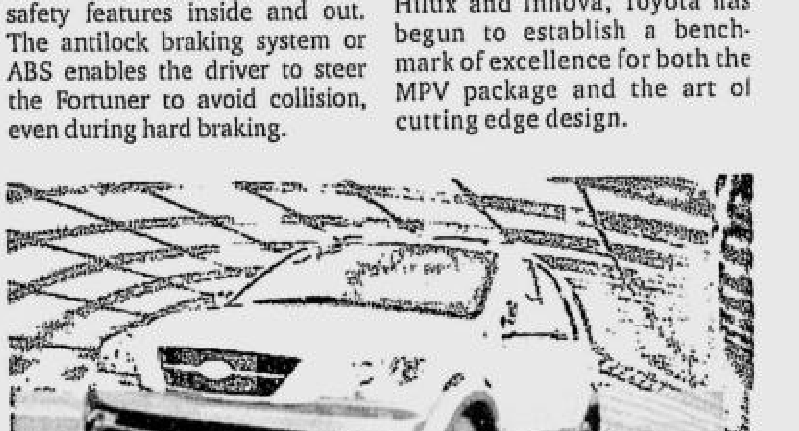
At the core of the 4,567 millimeter long, 1,863 mm wide and 1,740 mm height sleek exterior is a Common Rail Direct Injection (CRDI) engine with turbocharger intercooler. It has an accelerating power off the starting block and solid overtaking power provided by an engine that pumps out a maximum power of 140 ps at 3,800 rpm and a hefty 32.0 kg-m torque at 2,000 rpm. A double wishbone, coil spring with strut damper in front, along with a five-ring, coil spring damper on the rear, keep the bounce smooth and easy.

"With this engine configuration, any road condition for the Sorento is a stroll in the park," Mabilog enthuses. "It has the power to overwhelm the roughest terrain or can glide over paved road with great smoothness. No wonder it's the best-looking and best-performing SUV in the market today, he proudly adds.

Sleek interior

Matching the Sorento's power and performance is a sleek interior that compares with any SUV in the market today. The gauges and other controls are easy to locate and clearly marked.

The Sorento has comfortable, supportive front seats with eight-way power drive seat. It has ample head and legroom for above-average size adults. Step-in height is reasonable for an SUV while wide doors reveal roomy, comfortable seating for rear passengers.



KIA Sorento

Standard features

Features like leather seats, electrically heated rear window, power side mirrors and windows, CD audio system with six speakers, front-row cupholders and tilt adjustable steering wheel are standard.

The Sorento's powerfull built 225/75 R16 steel belte tires on alloy wheels add to th brawny look which comes i clear white, silver, radiant re and ebony black. The Sorent CRDi Diesel is available at a Kia dealers nationwide.

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LIFESTYLE

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DUNKIN' DONUTS Slabsters

Young minds, great ideas *Part 2*

Here are more people to inspire you to do your best this coming school year. Being on top of your class isn't the only way to succeed—there are other ways by which you can leave a mark on this world. Follow their lead:

1. Let your passion for business take you places, like the students of the Centre for International Education /C2

2. Grab opportunities left and right, leave your comfort zone and learn new things you can bring home, just like what Chiara Castaneda did /F4

3. Take a cue from the three winners of the Agora Youth Awards and devote time to the field you care about /C1

4. Share your talents. That's what Missy Marama-ra is doing /F2

5. Pour your heart into your art. Raya Martin is a fine example /D1

6. Entertain people in unconventional ways. Hollwyood screenwriter Simon Kinberg can tell you how /D3

7. Take the plunge into your favorite sport and never give up, just like four young Pinoy racers /F2

8. Like the participants of the Ayala Young Leaders Congress, find out what you can do to help improve the world /F1

The three marketers

Three recent recipients of this year's Agora Youth Awards sit down with 2bU! for a freewheeling chat

By Joshua Liao
2bU! Correspondent

IN 1991, the Philippine Marketing Association created an award to recognize the best and brightest marketing students the country's schools had to offer. Demonstrating the well-documented Pinoy fondness for clever acronyms, they called it the "Tomas Tosma",which stands for the Ten Outstanding Marketing Students and Three Outstanding Students Marketing Associations.

The name was eventually changed to Agora Youth Awards, perhaps because it sounded more marketable than Tomas Tosma.

Fast forward to 2005. More than a hundred graduating students from all over the country were nominated for the award this year. From this pool, 16 finalists were chosen. The finalists were asked to create marketing case studies that they had to present before a panel of experts. In the end, seven were declared as this year's Agora Youth Awardees.

Three of the seven winners recently sat down with 2bU!—Aislinn Chuahiock, Charlene Coyukiat and Jemilee Perez.

2bU!: What does it take to be a good marketer?

Aislinn Chuahiock (AC): I think it's patience. Marketing isn't just something you learn in a class. It's something you need to practice again and again in everything you do. When you shop, when you go places, you have to think like a marketer. You have to live it. There may be many of you in the marketing field, but only a few will stand out. In order to be a really good marketing student, you have to be one of those students who take the initiative to be unique among so many marketers. You have to be very expressive of your feelings. Don't be afraid to voice out what you think. Read a lot of books.

Charlene Coyukiat (CC): Jem reads marketing books for fun. (Laughter)

2bU!: For fun?

AC: You have to read marketing books. You have to be up to date, right? Learn to watch channels like CNN.

CC: You have to be very critical and sort of insightful. Ever since I took up marketing, it's like I can't enjoy a commercial anymore. You look at it and say, "Wait, there's no message!" (Laughter)

AC: Exactly. When you encounter something as basic as a commercial, you suddenly see some things you haven't noticed before. And unless you feel that, you're not yet a real marketing student.

Jemilee Perez (JP): You have to be obsessive-compulsive. You have to be aggressive. You have to stand out. You have to be able to communicate well not only in speech, but also in writing. You have to learn how to spot opportunities. You have to know a little bit of everything, from advertising to finance to operations. Even if you're in the marketing department, you have to see the bigger picture. You have to treat the entire business as your own. That way, you can make sound decisions that will really result in long-term gains for the company.

2bU!: What would you rather have—a lousy product with great marketing, or a great product with lousy marketing?

All: Great product with lousy marketing! (Laughter)

AC: You can't market something that's lousy.

2bU!: But isn't that a common perception about marketers? People say, "They

THE THREE/ C2

Tears?

Kitchie knows the fears involved in making choices. Leaving her old band and all its success, she took a self-imposed hiatus to focus on earning her college double-degree. And, in her own time and on her own terms, this angelic rocker returned to the music scene to claim it all once more. Today, her success as a solo artist, songwriter and producer is twice as sweet because she got it all back simply by taking that leap of faith.

Keeping the faith, Kitchie has pledged to donate her eyes and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You too can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Kitchie, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information, please call (632) 893.5995 email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph.

Kitchie Nadal
Singer/Songwriter

Photography: Jun de Leon

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

Visine* Refresh
Pfizer made it!

INQUIRER supports the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign.

Ryan Hao, 17, and Teresa Cho, 23

Party Animals Inc.

The youngest in the batch, Ryan paired up with Teresa and found one thing they have in common: a passion for pets. Hao and Cho thus formed Party Animals Inc., which organizes parties... for your pets. Yes, even your little Nemo or Polly can celebrate its birthday together with your friends and their pets.

With its parties that offer gourmet pet food, Pet Spa treatments, pet grooming stations and other fellow animals doing tricks, Party Animals Inc. is an irresistible option for all animal lovers.

"We wanna be with pets a lot, so we thought of putting up a business that deals with pets."

CIE professors and pupils at work

Jessie Suaco, 21

Spin City

At the age of 19, Suaco bested 3,600 other entries from all over Asia for Nescafé's Ministry of Sound Asian DJ Finals and was sent to Acapulco, Mexico, to represent the Philippines. When he came back, he put up Spin City, a DJ school.

DJ schools have been successful abroad, but Spin City is the first of its kind in the country. Its launch attracted World No. 5 Dutch DJ Ferry Corsten, who spun alongside Suaco in support of his entrepreneurial endeavor. Suaco switched from one high school and college to another until he found CIE, a school that finally fit his learning style.

"At the end of the four-session training, each student will get a chance to perform in a bar as part of his recital."

Dreamers, achievers

Text and photos by JR Victorio
2bU! Correspondent

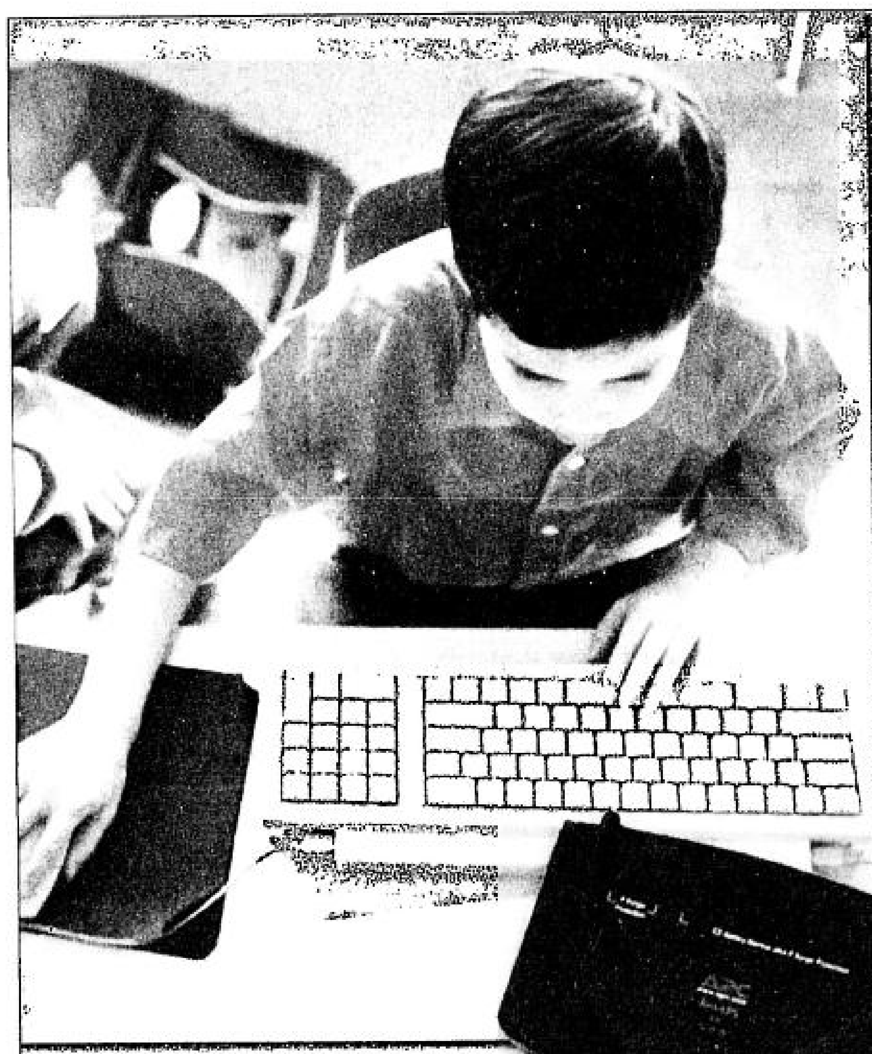
THEY'RE young, they're hip and they're bound to become millionaires someday! And they're all still in school!

Here are six students of the Centre for International Education, a new school that teaches young would-be entrepreneurs the basics of going into business and giving life to their dreams. The school's future entrepreneurs enjoy an academic environment that is laid-back and relaxed. At an early stage, students are encouraged to start conceptualizing and setting up their businesses and are guided by a pool of professors and businessmen.

Centre for International Education is at the 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. Call 8872828.

E-mail the author at jr_victorio@yahoo.com

EXAMINATION in progress



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The three mar

From page C1

can sell anything."

CC: It's called ethics.

2bU!: Tell us more about ethics in marketing.

AC: For us, we'd rather market a good product with bad marketing, because you know it can still be improved. You know you have direction. But if your product is lousy, there's only one direction—down. You see, today's consumers are getting smart.

CC: So if it's a lousy product with great marketing, people are bound to find out, anyway.

2bU!: What would be your advice to young students who want to go into marketing?

CC: First, are they sure they really want marketing?

AC: Don't go into marketing just because you think it's easy, because it's not.

JP: It's stressful.

AC: Yeah, exactly, it's stressful. A lot of people are taking marketing these days. Our classes are always overflowing. But we can say only three or five have what it takes to stand out. It's the competition that makes it stressful. So before you go into marketing, you have to know what you're actually getting into.

CC: My advice is to be well-rounded, considering how dynamic marketing is. The trends change, the people change, the markets change. So you have to be able to adapt, really.

JP: Be open-minded.

CC: Right. And you have to be in the know. If you just study what's written in the books—of course the books get published after the events happen—you will always be behind. So, while you're studying the theory, also give yourself the opportunity to practice... with arts, with contests like this.

AC: Join even non-marketing-related activities, as long as you get exposure. You can't put all your confidence in reading these books, because these books are just for your basic education.

CC: You hear that, Jem? (Laughter)

AC: Some people will say, "OK, I'll just memorize the marketing glossary, and that's it, I'm good."

JP: If you ask me about those marketing terms... I don't know half of them. I can't remember them.

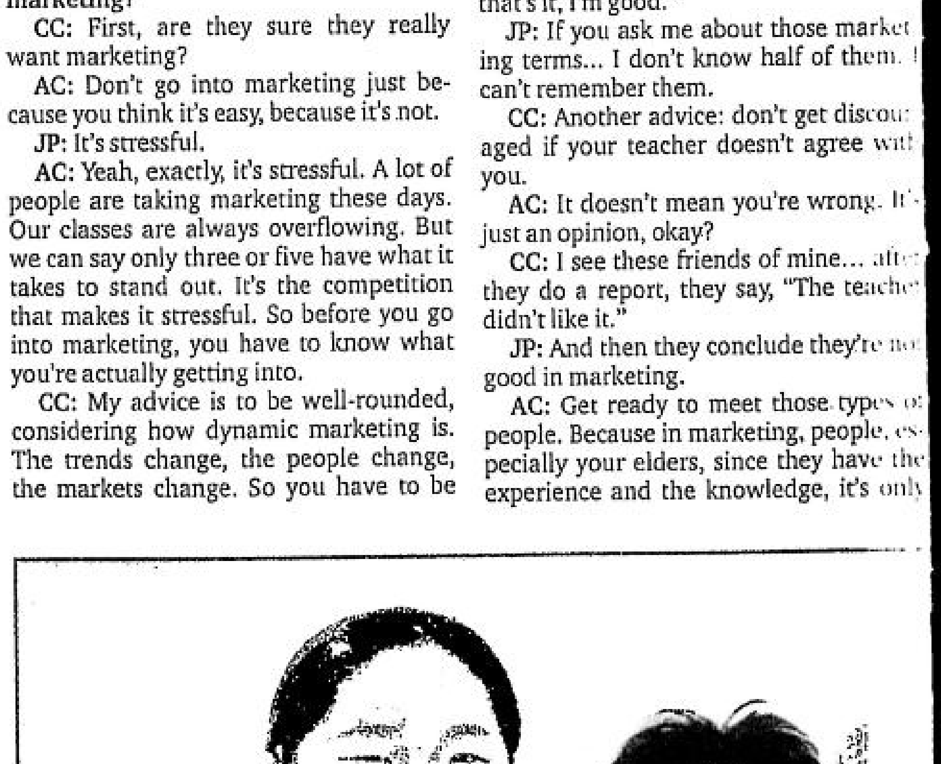
CC: Another advice: don't get discouraged if your teacher doesn't agree with you.

AC: It doesn't mean you're wrong. It's just an opinion, okay?

CC: I see these friends of mine... after they do a report, they say, "The teacher didn't like it."

JP: And then they conclude they're not good in marketing.

AC: Get ready to meet those types of people. Because in marketing, people, especially your elders, since they have the experience and the knowledge, it's only



CHARLENE Coyukiat (University of the Philippines-Diliman), Aislinn Chuahiock (De L
Diliman)

Christian Miranda, 21
The Embassy of Foreign Universities

This guy utilizes his vast network of friends currently enrolled in the best American, European and Australian universities. He created The Embassy of Foreign Universities where individuals who want to study in the best schools abroad are matched with current students in those universities. That way, applicants are guided through the application process by an "Embassy Mentor" who has made it through the tough screening procedures. Among the mentors in Christian's panel are students and graduates from Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, the University of Melbourne, as well as other esteemed learning institutions.

"My network of 40 ambassadors can guide anyone interested in studying in prestigious schools and assist them with the requirements FAQs on studying abroad."

Christine Choachuy, 24
The Ukay-Ukay Way

Capitalizing on her love for bargain hunting as well as her vast knowledge of the best *ukay-ukay* stores, "The Ukay-Ukay Way" is the first definitive guide of its kind in the country. Filled with detailed maps, bargaining tips, proprietors' cellphone numbers and other useful information, 21-year-old Chuachoy's book is set to be an essential part of every fashionista's life.

"One of my best buys is this top I'm wearing now. This kimono-inspired silk top only set me back P30."

Tolo Bote, 18
Bote Productions

If you love to party and party hard, Tolo is the best guy to organize your house celebrations. His Bote Productions guarantees well-organized and well-planned house parties, taking care of everything from sounds to snifters. Just don't forget to invite him to your house party.

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keters

natural for them to criticize. But just respect their opinions...

CC: Because if you look at the seven of us, the 16 of us, whatever, no one has the same answer. No one has the same approach.

JP: Be confident with your answer, especially since it can be quite subjective at times.

AC: Yeah, we've met professors who always say "you're wrong." But you have to take it positively. You have to know that you will lose most of the time, more than you will win. Be confident even if you're told you're wrong. Sometimes, it hurts when people say, "Aislinn, your work makes no sense." I just say, "Hmmm, really? Thank you for the honesty." Then give a nice sweet smile and try to understand why that person said it.

CC: You learn to take things constructively.

AC: Now, you're smarter. "This is how I have to do it." You really have to grow emotionally.

CC: When it comes to marketing, you should be ready to be competitive. Sorry, but it's true, because people think anyone can just get into marketing. Being from a marketing course or a business course doesn't give you much of an advantage.

AC: You have to be sociable also. Look at us. Now that we're placed in the same room... ahhh! (Screams and laughter)

CC: Yeah, this interview is never gonna end. (Laughter)

a Salle University) and Jemilee Perez (UP

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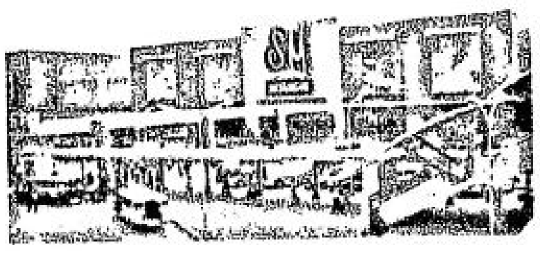
Father's Day Celebration@Luzon Provincial Supermalls

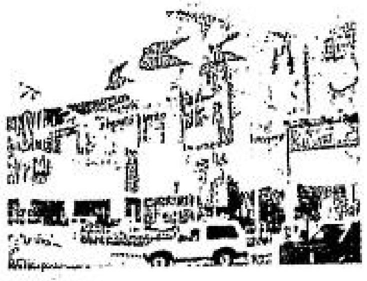
Ala-eh, Araw ni Itang!

SM City Batangas celebrates Father's Day with a bang! Get a chance to take home Granstar all-terrain vehicles on June 19, 2005, 5PM. See super dad and comedian Dennis Padilla mall show at 4 p.m.



Make way for Super Dad at SM City Lucena!

Show Dad just how much of a hero he is to you on Fathers' Day! Treat him to that ultimate fun-filled Father's Day celebration. Have a blast and a pow at SM Cinema for BATMAN BEGINS on June 15, and let Dad's inner child come out and play with Batman toys available at SM Department store and Toy Kingdom from June 9-28. Cool down from the shopping with unbelievably affordable merienda meals at Foodcourt.



Araw ni Itay

Celebrate Father's Day at SM City Marilao and have a fun-filled Sunday at the only supermall in the heart of Bulacan. Have numerous options to make your Dad feel loved on his special day. Give him a brand-new sporty gear or equipment; surprise him with the latest pair of shoes or eye shades; spend the day with him at the cinema watching the latest flick; or dine with him at any of the various resto. Treat him with a relaxing massage , a haircut at GQ Barber Shop, a shootout at the Sports Central, or get dunk a pitcher of beer at the Food Court.

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See mechanics posters for details.
*Prize: Granstar ATV 250cc
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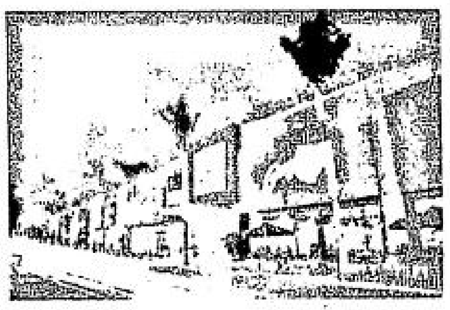
Per DTI Permit No.1434 Series of 2005

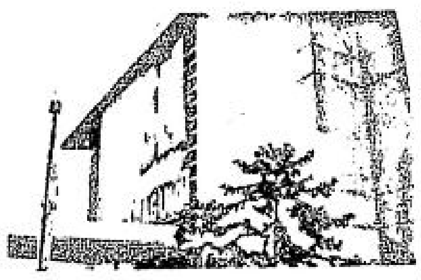
Tara na sa Pampanga!

Take your Dad to SM City Pampanga for the most fun-filled Father's Day ever! Give Dad some TLC on his special day by celebrating at Fiesta Strip for the delectable array of food choices and feel-good music. Show your appreciation by buying him a gift and indulge in the greatest discounts and promos in selected stores. Treat Dad to a good scoop of free ice cream at SM Foodcourt or get to play the Pachinco game at the SM Supermarket. Get a chance to win School Pabaon Money at SM Department Store from April 25 to June 30, 2005.



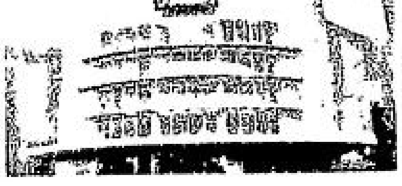
Harana para kay Papa!

Ikaw naman ang mangharana! Serenade Dad with NINA LIVE this Father's Day as the soul siren herself belt out her latest hits only at SM City Baguio. Make Dad feel just how special he is with Nina's unique renditions of the famous ballads and love songs. Bask in Baguio's cool breeze and awesome beauty this Father's day and take advantage of the great discounts and other perks available at SM City Baguio this time of the year!



Para sa Caviteñong Tatay

It's Father's Day again! Spend time with Dad on his special day with the best deals ever only found in SM City Dasmariñas. Enjoy the day shopping at the most wondrous discounts and get a chance to win premiums in various promos. Take gourmet pleasure at the many restaurants and eat your way to your dad's heart. Share that warm moment with the main man of your life at the SM Cinema. On top of it all, enjoy regular mall tours and shows offered for you and your Dad's entertainment.



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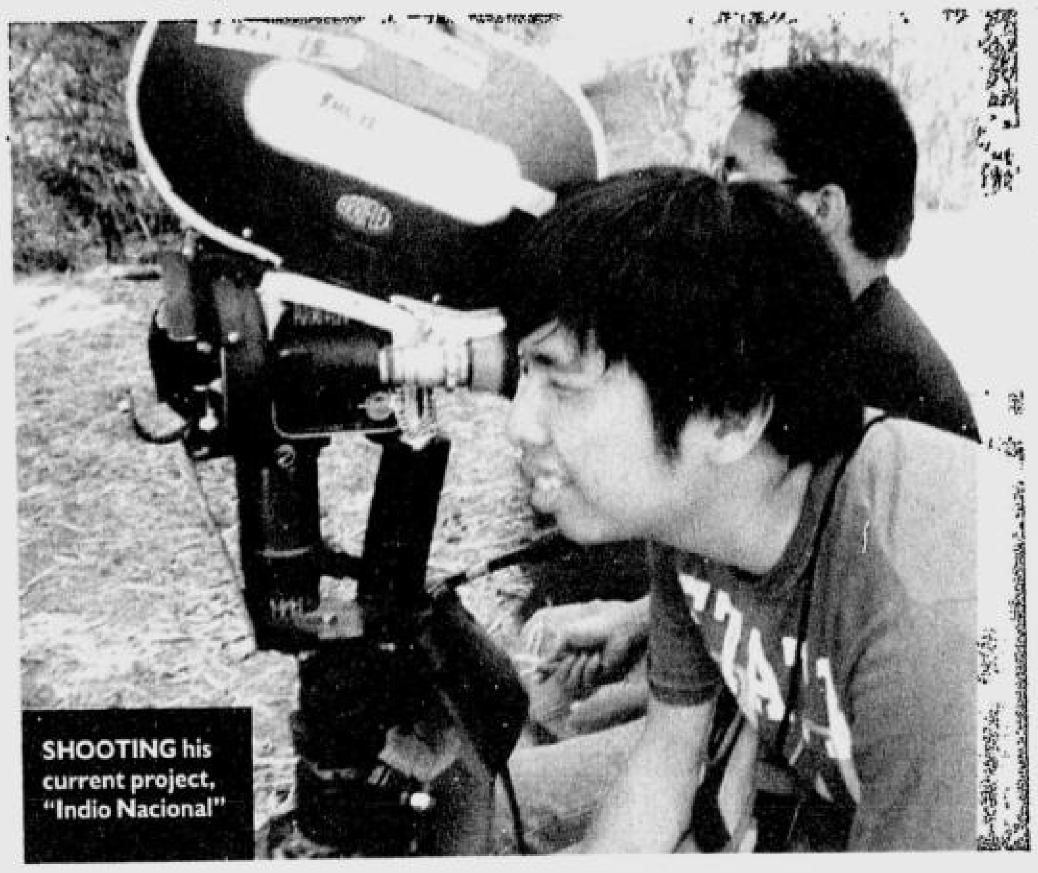

SHOOTING his current project, "Indio Nacional"

Filmmaker at the end of the world

By Phil Dy
Contributor

Is 20-year-old Raya Martin the bright new hope of Philippine cinema?

A LITTLE over four years ago, young filmmaker Raya Martin made a promise to himself: If he couldn't find a way to shift out of his journalism course in UP Baguio and into film at UP Diliman, he would drop out of college completely and just try to make it on his own.

Brave words. It's interesting to speculate what would have happened had Martin not found a way out of the Baguio campus. As it stands, however, he shifted and has since then been producing some of the finest new film work this country has ever seen. And he's still just barely over two decades old.

Brilliant mind

Born to a family of writers, Martin fell into filmmaking by playing around with his family's camera after trying and failing to get interested in writing. Eventually, his high school provided him with a chance to make his first film through a contest. His film, an adaptation of e.e. cummings' "i dream of Olaf glad and big," failed to win the school contest after it was deemed too controversial, but it found its way into film festivals. The rest is history.

It's pretty hard to imagine that within his baseball cap and small frame lies perhaps one of the most brilliant filmmaking minds in the country today. He's already directed six films, among them the short feature "Bakasyon (The Visit)," winner of the Cinemanila 2004 Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema. Also of note is his feature-length documentary "Ang Isla sa Dulo ng Mundo (The Island at the End of the World)'," which took Martin to Itbayat Island in Batanes, the northernmost tip of our country.

In "Isla," he explores a culture seemingly cut off from the rest of the country, with the island isolated most of the year because of the brutal typhoons that pass through it.

"It was just one of those things where you wake up and decide 'Okay, I want to go to Batanes,'" he says. Having been told by researchers at the university that Batanes just had to be seen, Martin's natural curiosity and profound need to understand drove him to spend two weeks in a place where he did not know anyone or speak the language.

"I'm trying to piece together things I don't understand... trying to create something coherent from all the pieces," he says.

For that, he risked life and limb to create the documentary, at one point almost falling off a cliff. It's this kind of dedication to the craft that makes Martin so exceptional in his field.

"Film is life," he explains. "It's not a hobby or a pastime. You have to live it and breathe it."

Challenge

So dedicated is Martin, in fact, that despite the onset of cheaper and easier digital filmmaking, he still prefers to use film. Film is,

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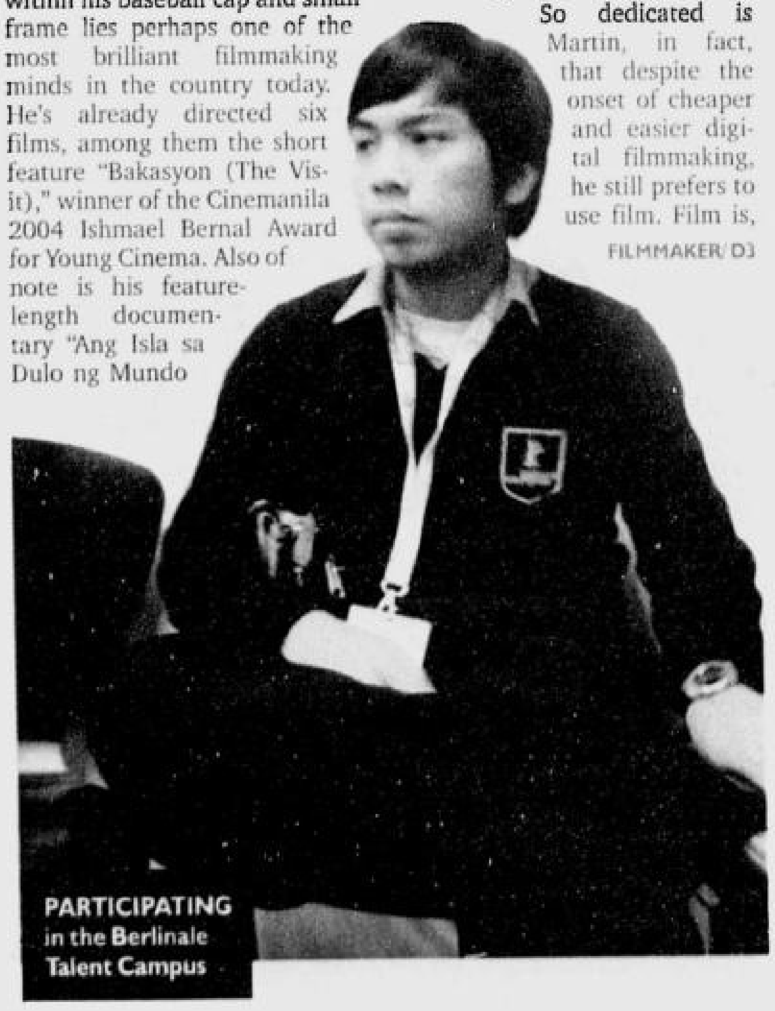

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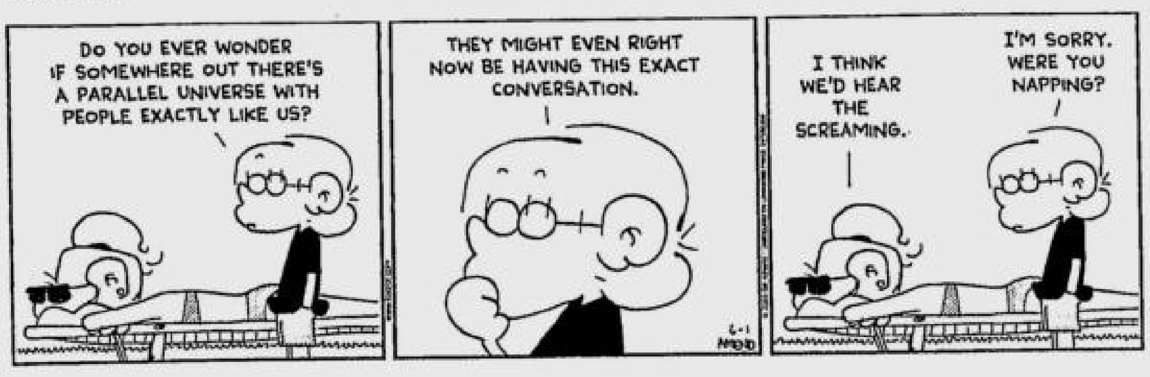
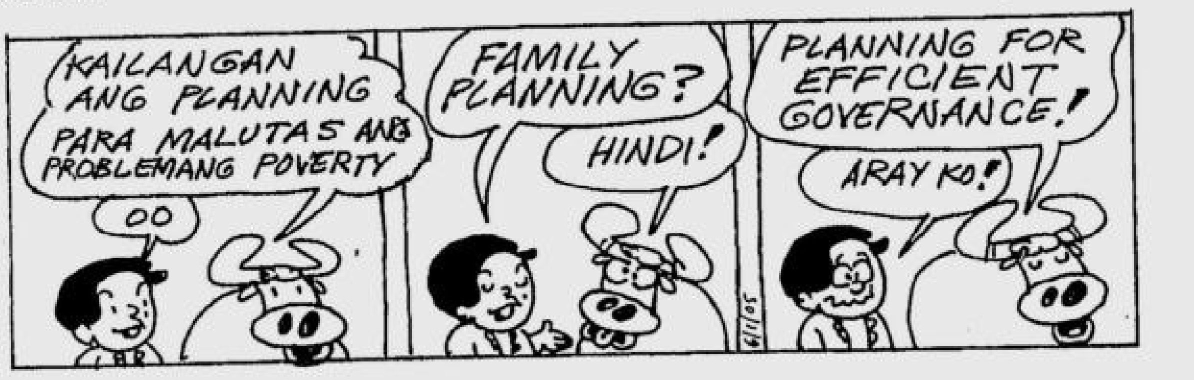
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DO YOU EVER WONDER IF SOMEWHERE OUT THERE'S A PARALLEL UNIVERSE WITH PEOPLE EXACTLY LIKE US?
THEY MIGHT EVEN RIGHT NOW BE HAVING THIS EXACT CONVERSATION.
6-1 AMEND
I THINK WE'D HEAR THE SCREAMING.
I'M SORRY. WERE YOU NAPPING?

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA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FAMILY PLANNING?
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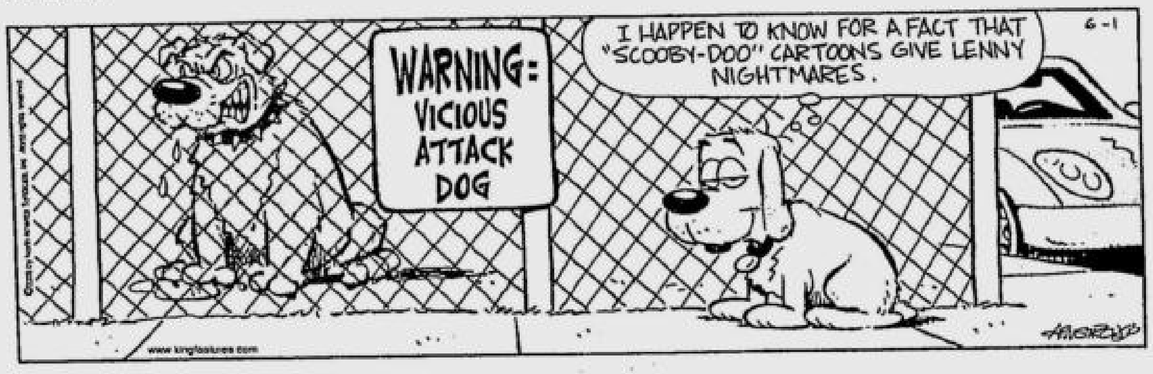
PLANNING FOR EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE!
ARAY KO!

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG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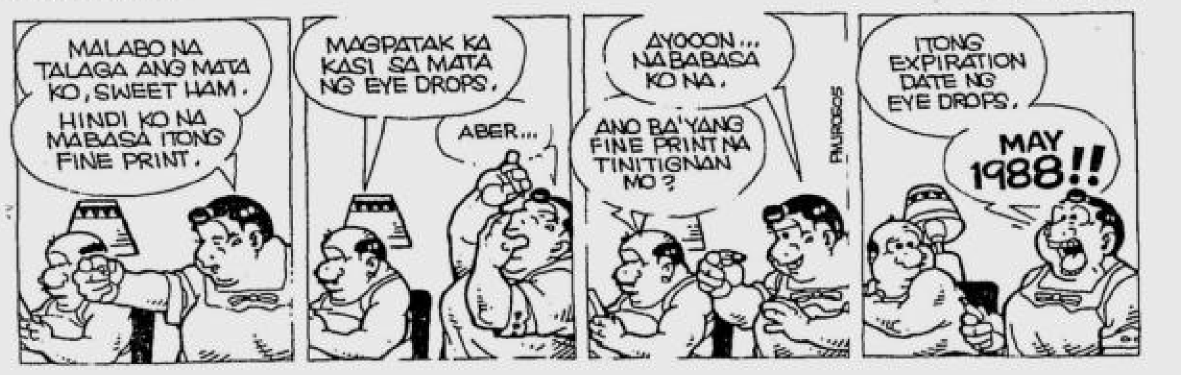
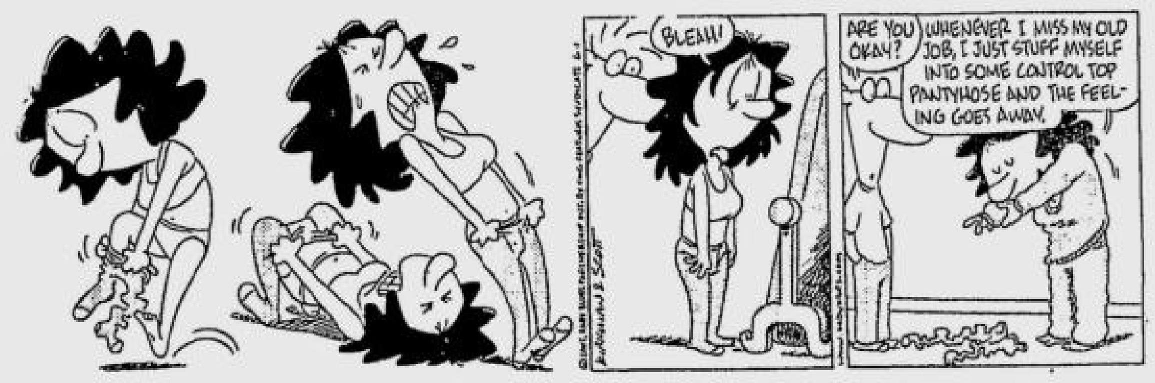

MALABO NA TALAGA ANG MATA KO, SWEET HAM.
HINDI KO NA MABASA ITONG FINE PRINT.
MAGPATAK KA KASI SA MATA NG EYE DROPS.
ABER...
AYOOON... NABABASA KO NA.
ANO BA'YANG FINE PRINT NA TINITIGNAN MO?
ITONG EXPIRATION DATE NG EYE DROPS.
MAY 1988!!

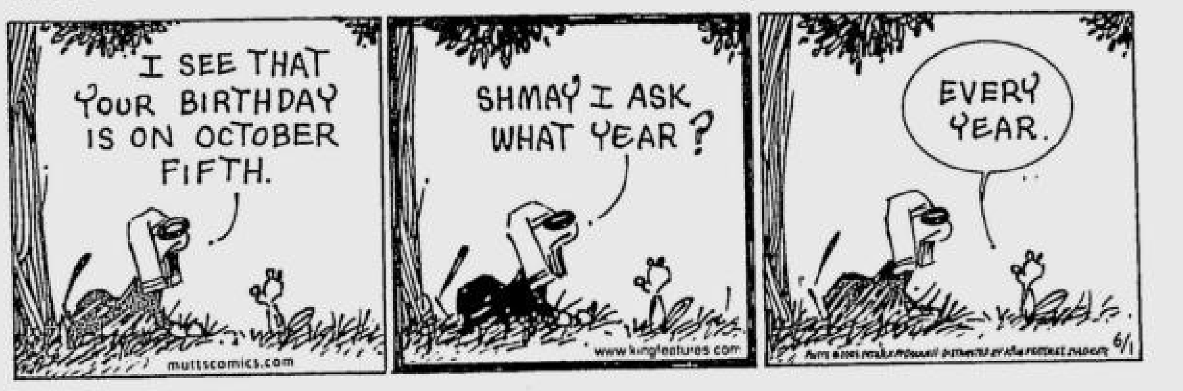
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BLEAH!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHENEVER I MISS MY OLD JOB, I JUST STUFF MYSELF INTO SOME CONTROL TOP PANTYHOSE AND THE FEELING GOES AWAY.

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL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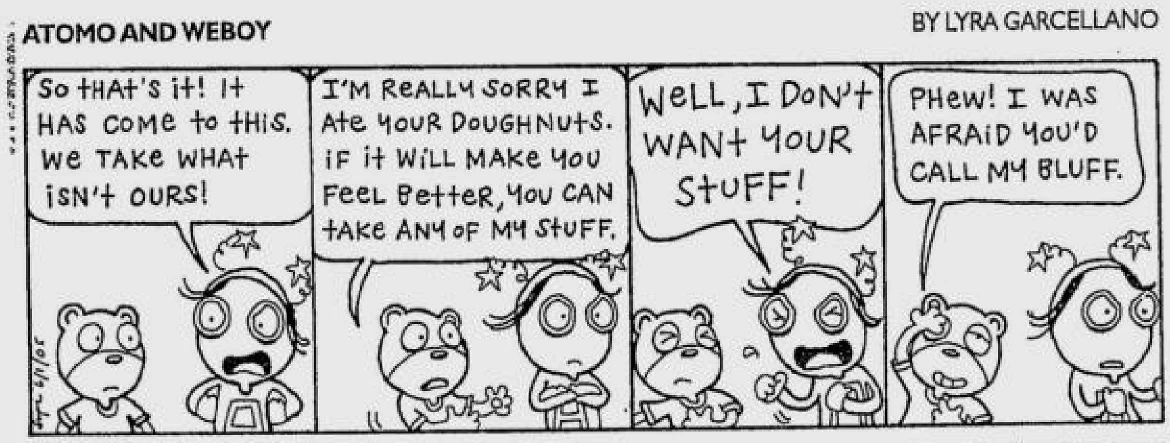
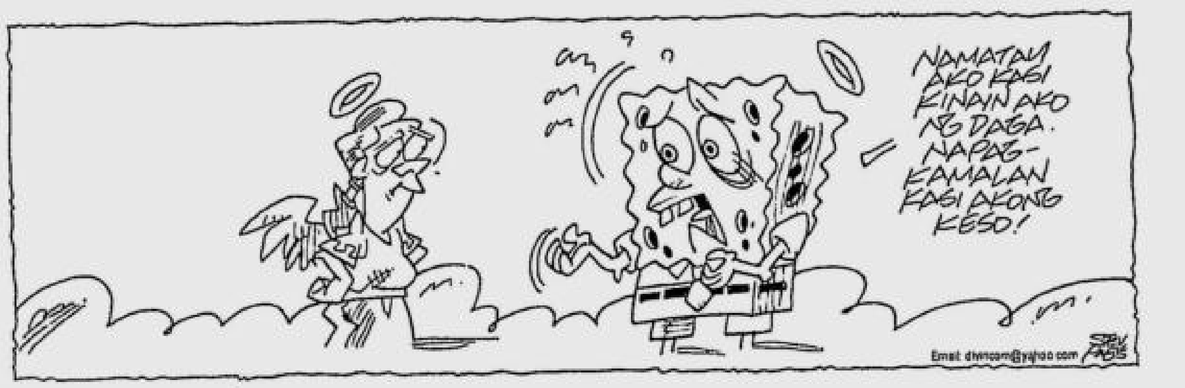
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


So tHAt's it! It HAS come to tHis. We TAKE WHAT isn't OURS!
I'M ReALLY SORRY I Ate YOUR DOUGHNUtS. iF it WiLL MAKE YOU FeeL Better, YOU CAN take ANY OF MY StUFF.
WeLL, I DON't WANt YOUR StUFF!
PHew! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D CALL MY BLUFF.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NAMATAY AKO KASI KINAIN AKO NG DAGA. NAPAGKAMALAN KASI AKONG KESO!
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HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are very aware of what the public wants. You understand trends. You can be both extroverted and introverted, but you are a shrewd judge of people. You take pride in educating yourself, and you often possess specialized knowledge. The year ahead might be one of the most successful, rewarding years of your life!
Birthdate of: Alanis Morissette, singer; Morgan Freeman, actor; Marilyn Monroe, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day for talking to others and getting your ideas across to people who count. Your enthusiasm is what is so convincing.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day for making money. It's an excellent time for all business and commerce. It's a good day to sign contracts; it's also an excellent day to shop.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a lucky day for you! Feel free to play the so-called long shot. Make vacation plans. Enjoy playful activities with children. Do anything that is fun-loving, romantic and artistic.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You'll enjoy your solitude today. You'll also enjoy quiet moments at home. You feel very good about family members now. (You also feel good about yourself.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful day to schmooze with friends and groups. Conferences, meetings and discussions with everyone are upbeat, optimistic and positive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day to promote your career in any way. You might want to sign up for new courses. Talk to the boss if there's something you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a great day for publishing, travel and everything having to do with medicine, the law and higher education. Basically, you want to expand your world in some way! You want to learn something new.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If there's a division of duties or a division of property, you will get your fair share today. You will be treated fairly. In turn, you feel generous to others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can sell snow to the Eskimos today! Your verbal skills are fantastic! This is a good day to talk to partners about anything that matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can work with others in group situations to accomplish a lot today. Your people skills are excellent right now, especially on the job.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): What a playful, marvelous day! Do take time off from work to enjoy yourself. Make friends and have a laugh. Enjoy playful activities with children. Catch a movie or see a game. Have fun!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is good day to make improvements at home. You want to enlarge something or make things bigger or grander in some way. You can do it if you try.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
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By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

6/1/05

ACROSS
1 Pyramids and mausoleums
6 Chuckle
10 Chowder chunk
14 Cherish
15 Cold treats
16 Luminous ring
17 Navigational system
18 Stick-to-itiveness
19 Radames' love
20 Emulate Julius Caesar
23 Croat's neighbor
24 Submachine gun
25 French friend
28 __ mater
30 City where Mark Twain is buried
34 Metal containers
36 Fish choice
38 Moderates
39 Emulate Don Quixote
42 Shaq or Tatum
43 Japanese P.M. (1964-72)
44 'Star Wars' princess
45 Redecorate the bathroom
47 Ninth mo.
49 Fi preceder
50 Simple vessel
52 Old Olds cars
54 Nod off briefly
61 Eye part
62 SSS classification
63 Computer post
64 One of the Trumans
65 'Aurora' fresco painter Guido
66 Wranglers' show
67 Comic Johnson
68 1982 Disney flick
69 Trap

DOWN
1 Bath powder
2 Scent
3 Gulf of the Celebes Sea
4 Copper-zinc alloy
5 Intuited
6 Intellectuals
7 Field measure
8 Legacy recipients
9 Shrewd
10 Flexible armor
11 Secular
12 Ray of 'Battle Cry'
13 Mournful sound
21 Reliance
22 Brazilian port
25 Thespian
26 Augusta's state
27 Narrow bay
29 Wanted-poster word
31 Man and Anglesey
32 Old treasure
33 Very, in music
35 Flight of steps
37 Amuse
40 God in the Koran
41 One of Disney's seven
46 Straining attempt
48 Looms
51 Skin cream
53 Singer Carly
54 Castro's homeland
55 Declare as fact
56 Midterm or pop quiz
57 Las Vegas competition
58 Nothing in Spanish
59 Dyeing vat
60 Blackthorn

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	S	H	■	S	L	A	G	■	D	A	T	E
T	I	T	H	E	■	P	I	N	E	■	A	W	O	L
U	N	T	I	L	■	I	O	N	A	■	Y	A	R	D
D	A	Y	P	L	A	N	N	E	R	■	L	I	T	E
■	■	■	■	O	G	E	E	■	E	L	A	T	E	R
T	H	U	D	■	A	L	S	■	D	A	B	■	■	■
H	E	R	A	■	P	E	S	T	■	H	O	S	E	A
A	R	G	Y	L	E	S	■	E	A	R	R	I	N	G
N	E	E	D	Y	■	S	E	T	S	■	E	D	I	E
■	■	■	R	N	A	■	N	E	T	■	R	E	D	S
R	E	S	E	N	D	■	V	A	I	L	■	■	■	■
E	D	N	A	■	D	A	Y	T	R	I	P	P	E	R
A	D	A	M	■	F	R	I	F	■	N	U	R	S	E
P	I	K	E	■	R	E	N	T	■	E	M	O	T	E
S	E	E	R	■	S	A	G	L	■	S	A	W	E	D

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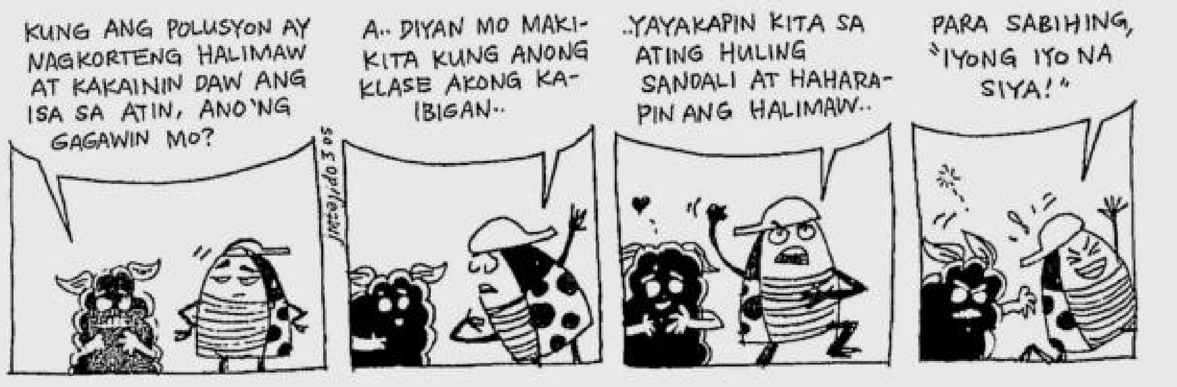
6/1/05

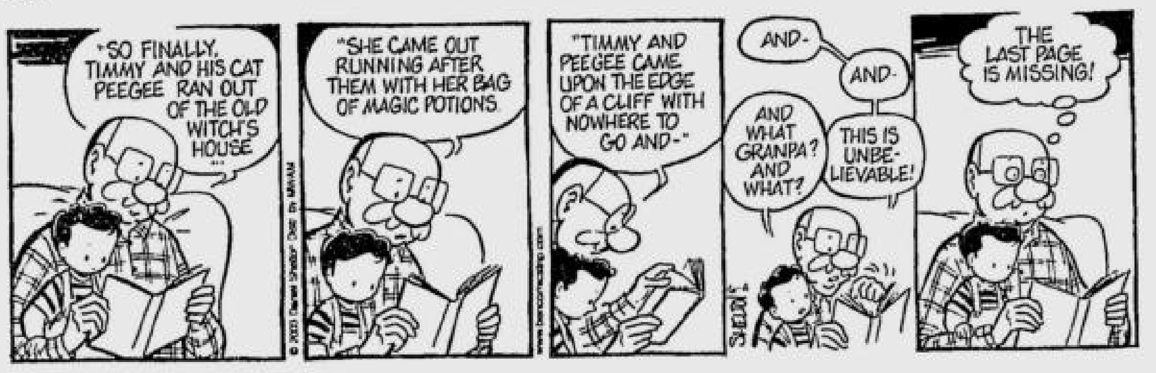
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUNG ANG POLUSYON AY NAGKORTENG HALIMAW AT KAKAININ DAW ANG ISA SA ATIN, ANO'NG GAGAWIN MO?
A.. DIYAN MO MAKIKITA KUNG ANONG KLASE AKONG KAIBIGAN..
..YAYAKAPIN KITA SA ATING HULING SANDALI AT HAHARAPIN ANG HALIMAW..
PARA SABIHING, "IYONG IYO NA SIYA!"

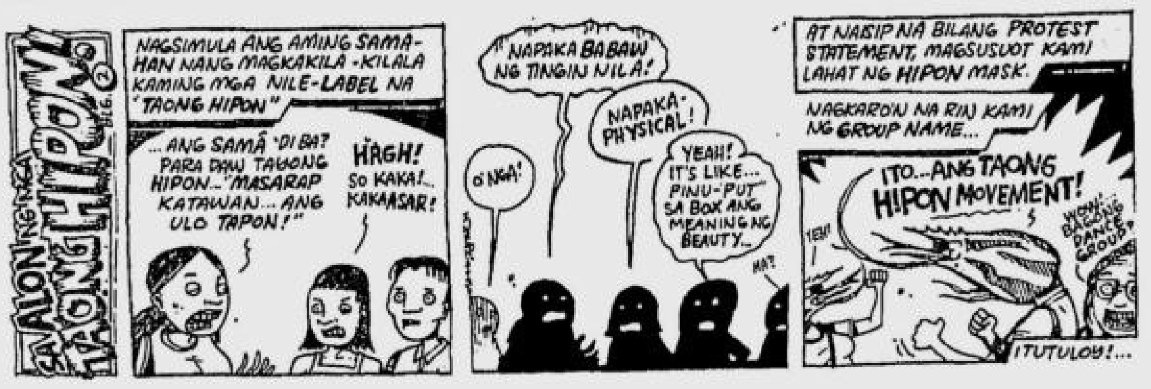
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


"SO FINALLY, TIMMY AND HIS CAT PEEGEE RAN OUT OF THE OLD WITCH'S HOUSE ...
"SHE CAME OUT RUNNING AFTER THEM WITH HER BAG OF MAGIC POTIONS.
"TIMMY AND PEEGEE CAME UPON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF WITH NOWHERE TO GO AND-"
AND-
AND-
AND WHAT GRANPA? AND WHAT?
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!
THE LAST PAGE IS MISSING!

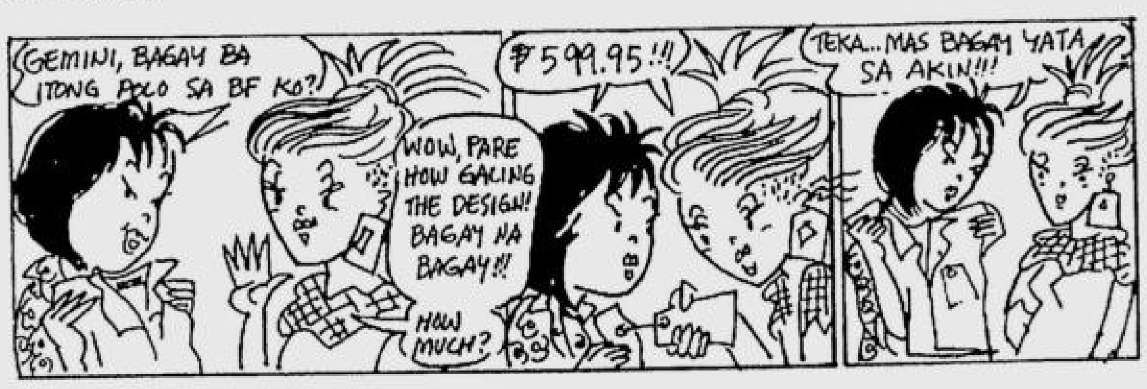
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SA ALON NG MGA TAONG HIPON! BLG. 2
NAGSIMULA ANG AMING SAMAHAN NANG MAGKAKILA-KILALA KAMING MGA NILE-LABEL NA "TAONG HIPON"
... ANG SAMĀ 'DI BA? PARA DAW TAONG HIPON.. "MASARAP KATAWAN... ANG ULO TAPON!"
HAGH! SO KAKA!.. KAKAASAR!
O NGA!
NAPAKA BABAW NG TINGIN NILA!
NAPAKA-PHYSICAL!
YEAH! IT'S LIKE... PINU-PUT SA BOX ANG MEANING NG BEAUTY..
HA?
AT NAISIP NA BILANG PROTEST STATEMENT, MAGSUSUOT KAMI LAHAT NG HIPON MASK.
NAGKARO'N NA RIN KAMI NG GROUP NAME...
ITO...ANG TAONG HIPON MOVEMENT!
YEH!
WOW! BAGONG DANCE GROUP?
ITUTULOY!...

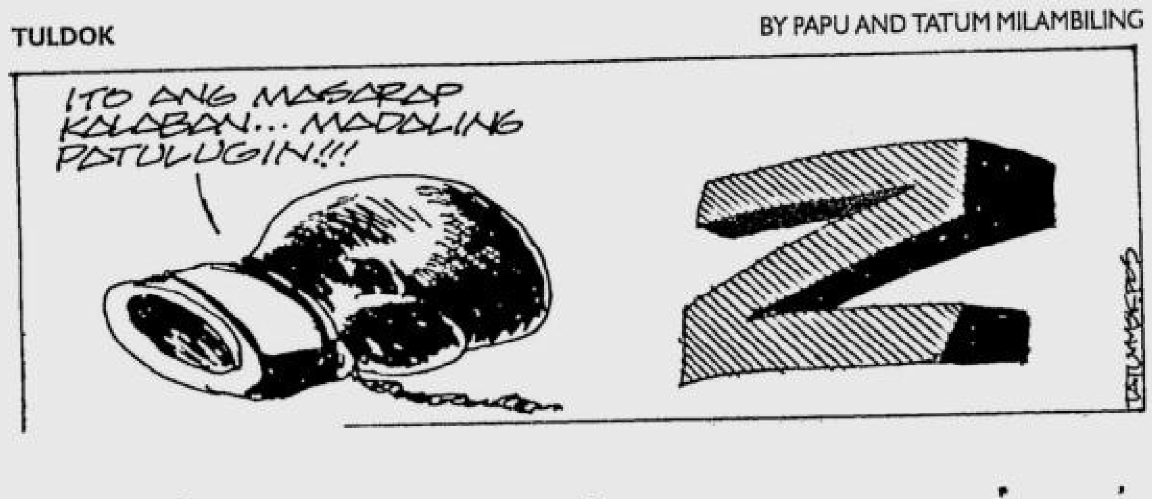
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GEMINI, BAGAY BA ITONG POLO SA BF KO?
WOW, PARE HOW GALING THE DESIGN! BAGAY NA BAGAY!!!
HOW MUCH?
₱599.95!!!
TEKA... MAS BAGAY YATA SA AKIN!!!

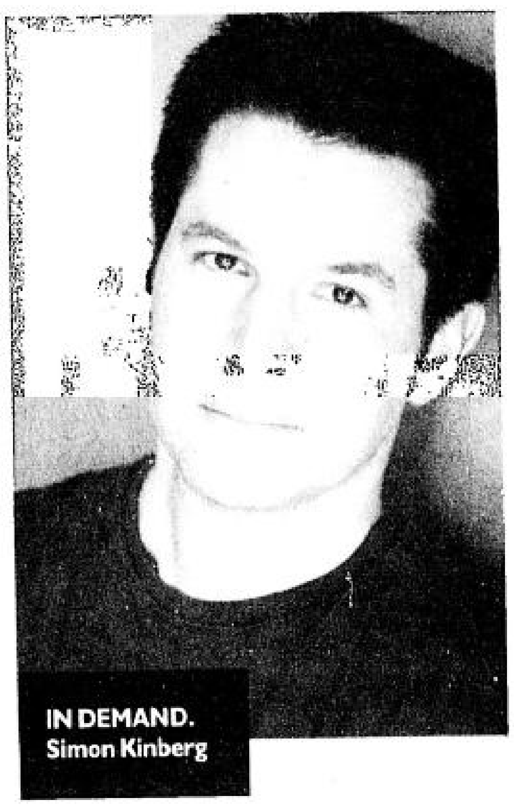
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ITO ANG MASARAP KALABAN... MADALING PATULUGIN!!!

Triple X-citing script writer

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor


IN DEMAND. Simon Kinberg

Simon Kinberg is one of the most in-demand screenwriters of big-budgeted American action flicks. The busy 31-year-old scribe recently explained his involvement with "XXX 2: The Next Level" and other fan-favorite franchises, through a telephone interview arranged by Columbia Pictures while he was at his Los Angeles home.

Kinberg is thrilled to be part of "XXX 2," as the experience enabled him to explore and add new layers to the original hit 2002 film. "It was actually a lot of creative freedom. (The goal) was to make it as distinct and original as I could, and to make the energy as good as the first movie's. The studio had me as the first and last writer for this sequel. They really trusted me a lot," says the former Columbia University Film School student.

Kinberg relates that actor Vin Diesel didn't return for the sequel for plausible reasons, one of which was the natural evolution of the story. "It's very different because it would have starred Vin Diesel originally," he says. "There was an assumption that he was (still) on the lead. The hero was re-cast by my third draft. Vin wanted to do it. The studio saw that we wanted to do something radical. It was a creative decision as much as a business one. So, Vin and the studio parted amicably."

Challenge

Writing an altogether different character played by Ice Cube was a challenge, adds Kinberg.: "I liked him in 'Three Kings.' He's a really good actor. Cube was really excited to do this. He was really fresh. The most important thing to him is he wanted it grittier and rawer. He was a big influence in making it more realistic."

The opportunity to work with thematically eclectic director Lee Tamahori ("Once Were Warriors," "Die Another Day") was also a memorable one for the writer. "Our experience is great because he's very open, inclusive and collaborative," he offers. "I was really happy he made more of a political movie. It's got many stunts. At the core, it's like a '70s political thriller like 'Parallax View' and 'Three Days of the Condor.'"

He was stunned that one of his two-dimensional creations was brought to celluloid life by one of his favorite actors. "I was ecstatic when Willem Dafoe read and was cast! I kept rewriting the script for him. He wanted to make sure that the character was more human and not a madman. He wanted his character's agenda to be very accessible to the audience."

Being able to conjure up lives for the big screen has always been a dream for Kinberg. "I'm somebody who really breathes pop culture. I love comic books, movies, TV shows and music videos. I grew up loving movies in the '80s, the 'Die Hard' 'Lethal Weapon' and 'Terminator' movies. Miami Vice was a touchstone as a child. When I was older, I began writing short stories. I wanted to be a novelist. People who've read my work then thought I'd be a screenwriter. I really resisted it (at first), and I went to film school."

Some of the screenwriter's other commitments include work on Marvel Comics properties such as "X-Men 3" and "Fantastic Four," as well as "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" (starring Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie), which was a school thesis project and the first script he ever sold. "A lot of what I'm writing now are dream projects," he says. "'X-Men' is a dream project, and 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith,' too. But I've never written a science fiction movie. I like movies with multiple points of view like 'Magnolia' and 'Nashville.' I want to do one with seven or eight stories."

But he says that working on many characters on "X-Men 3" is a good way to start. "I wish I could tell you a lot. But what I can tell you is that it's going to be like 'Return of the King' (in the sense that) it's bigger for the characters, there will be new mutants and it'll have a level of intensity that will be different from the first two movies," he promises.

Fan

He considers himself a fan of diverse authors and creative people like Frank Miller, Dashiell Hammett, Alan Pakula and Steven Soderbergh. He also finds screenwriting an exciting job that has its compromises. "They don't always listen to writers," he reveals.

"As a screenwriter, (your work) always changes. The creative challenge of the job is trying to bring as much characterization to it, while every 15 minutes something has to blow up. Making movies is a team sport. If you don't want to be a team player, you should do something else, like be a novelist."

And while Kinberg admits that he's not the best writer in the world, his dedication and perseverance make people pay attention. "As a young writer, I realize I have been very lucky. I genuinely love the genre I'm writing. I think that love and enthusiasm translates to the page. I'm somebody who's very fluent in pop culture. That's especially important, to know what young people are in touch with."

And speaking of young people, he gives his advice to aspiring film writers: "One, write what you love. If you love romantic comedies, write about it, or other movies you're excited seeing. Two, be patient; it takes time to write and wait. Even if I'm inside the Hollywood system already, I still have to wait a few weeks for replies. Third, learn from good screenplays. There are a lot of great scripts online that you can read."

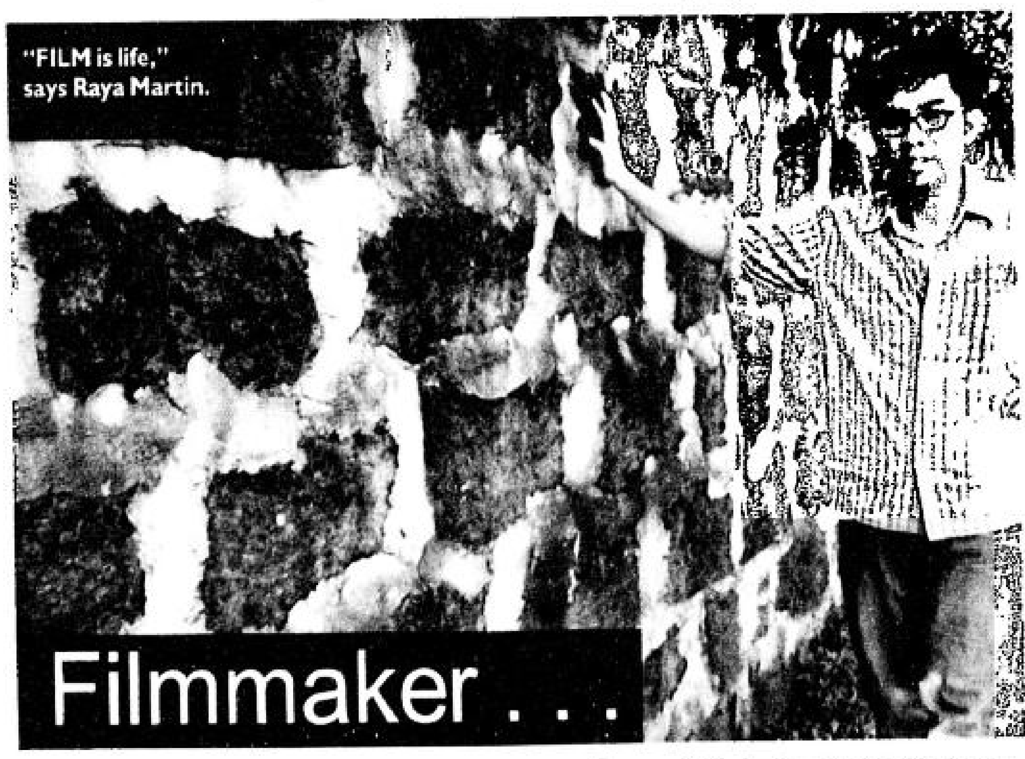
"And, you gotta keep writing. I can't stop writing for even a few days. I write, eat dinner with my wife and write again after she's fallen asleep. It seems like the most fun job in the world, but it takes a lot of hard work. It's like a muscle. The more you write, the better you become!"

THE ACTION-PACKED XXX 2

Hollywood writer Simon Kinberg specializes in movies about secret agents and superheroes

COMING SOON. Fantastic Four

CONTROVERSIAL. Angelina Jolie in Mr. and Mrs. Smith


"FILM is life," says Raya Martin.

Filmmaker . . .

From page D1

of course, more expensive and more temperamental, but he seems to appreciate the added challenge.

"It builds a different kind of discipline... having to skip lunch so you can have enough money to buy film, and being more disciplined in production and shooting."

It's obvious that he'd rather not make compromises in the purity of his craft, and take harder roads to create what he believes will be a better and more profound end product.

Right now, Martin is working on his dream project: a multi-part epic film that strives to portray the struggles of our country in the various phases of our history, from Spanish colonial times all the way to the present.

It's an ambitious project (too ambitious, some have said, including his thesis adviser), but as always, many have been proven wrong in not expecting too much from this precocious 20-year-old.

Martin cringes when asked to give advice to other young filmmakers. "It's pretentious," he says, given that he's just struggling along, trying to find his voice like everyone else.

After much cajoling, though, he relents. "Just try to be honest as possible. Don't make films to win festivals or contests," he says.

He points out that we have a culture of wanting to impress people. He attributes his success to the fact that he's simply doing what he loves to do best. "Know why you're into what you're into," he says, "(and) shoot what you want to shoot."

Email the author at phil.dy@gmail.com

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Loving it in Lucban

HATS off. Children enjoying the day's festivities

The Pinoy penchant for feasting is very evident in the Pahiyas festival

Text and styling by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jake Verzosa
Co-stylist Aby Puzon

THERE is good reason to believe that fiestas, more than sunny beaches and flora and fauna, are the main tourist attractions in the country.

During fiestas, no one is a stranger; doors are opened for people to come and go as they please, and there is always an abundance of food on the table. Weeks are spent planning and preparing the region's specialties for visitors from the city as well as neighborhood friends for one or two days of fiesta. (And some will insist on wrapping up a dish or two for "take home.")

One of the most popular festivals in the country is the Pahiyas in Quezon, which is held every May 15. Thousands of people flock to the otherwise sleepy town of Lucban to take photos of the houses covered in colorful *kiping* (rice wafers molded on large leaves.)

Aside from *kiping*, the townsfolk also use fresh vegetables, hats, bamboo poles and painted *bayongs* to decorate every square inch of the façade of their houses

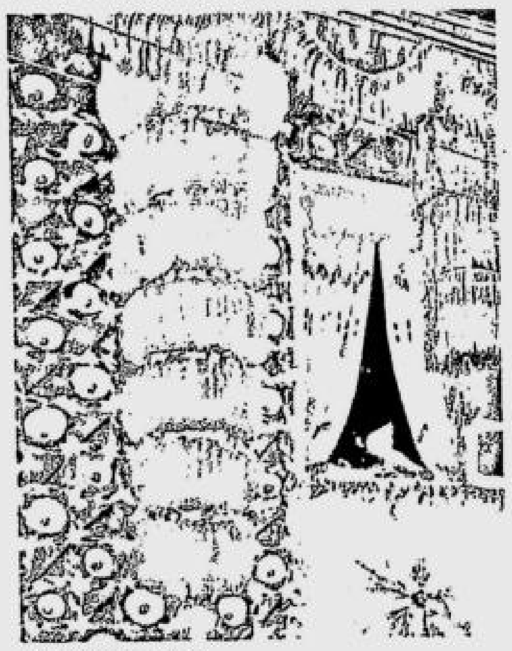
But don't expect the décor to be ready the day before the fiesta. The people of Lucban guard their designs jealously, so many houses are not fully decorated until the day of the fiesta itself, as to prevent any copycats from imitating the designs that took weeks to plan and even longer to save up for.

Our crew for the shoot arrived in Lucban after six and a half hours of traveling for what would normally be a three-hour trip from Manila—it was as if everyone wanted to go to Quezon. But, we were told, the traffic would be worse on the actual day of the fiesta.

Great, we thought, at least we can finish shooting today and relax tomorrow. However, our plans were thwarted the moment we got to the town proper. It was already late afternoon, but most of the houses were bare! Some people were setting up bamboo poles and

LOVING/ E2

CHECKING out the colorful Pahiyas scene



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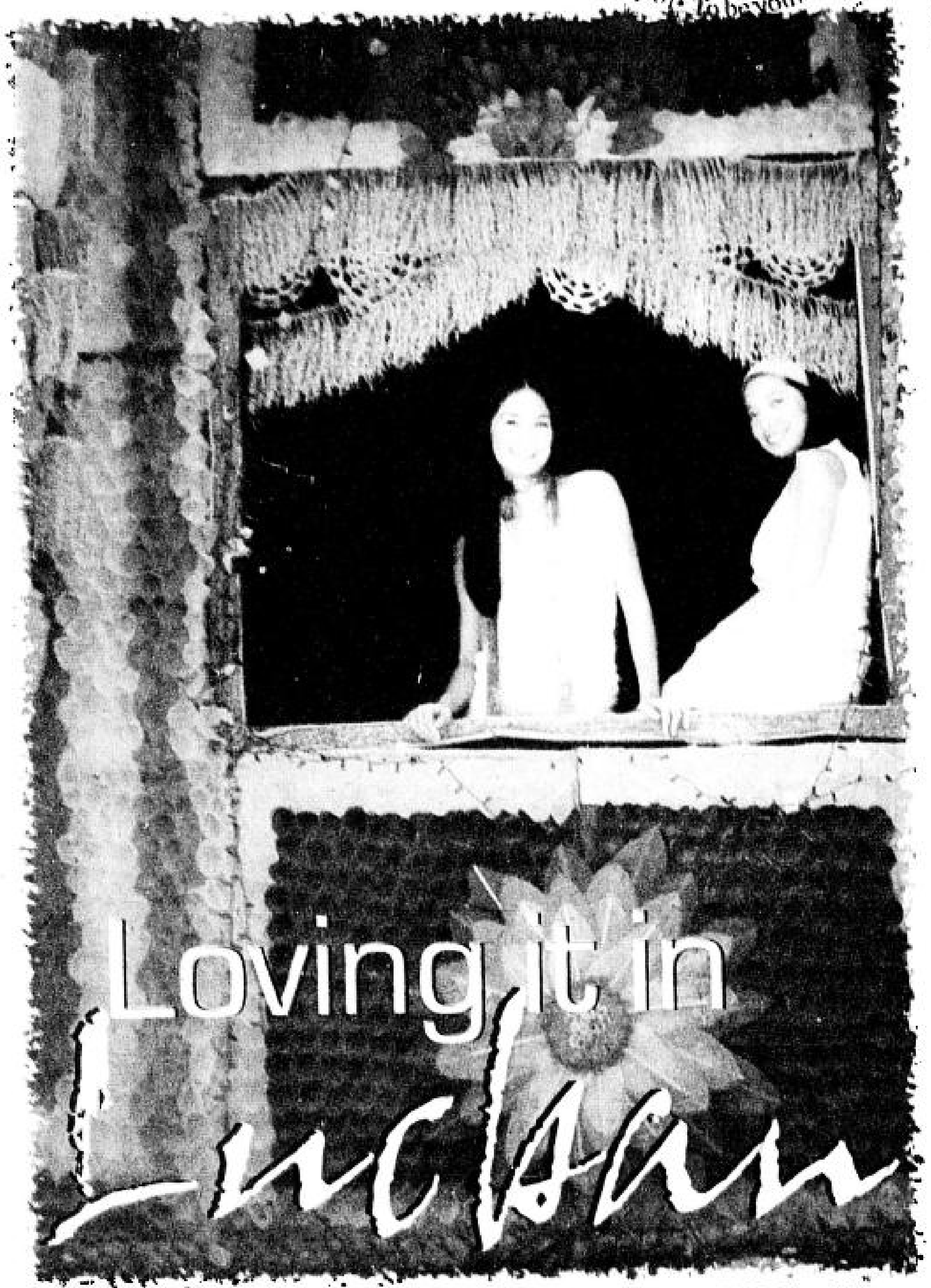


ON MARGAUX: Wrap around top, P1295, U2 from Cinderella. Shorts, P995, Chocolate Clothing Company. On Hazel: top, P1395, Chocolate Clothing Company. Sash (used as necklace), P399, YRYS

From page E1

hanging a few *bayongs* on the rafters, but for the most part, nothing was being done.

After taking a few shots, we returned to the Unica Flora flower farm, which our hosts, fellow correspondent Francine Palines and family, own. Although the place is located on the outskirts of the town, the mood in the farm was just as merry as it was in the town proper—and with just as much food.

During the entire weekend, there was more than enough in their household to feed a crew of eight, plus several other families, as well. And this is the case for many other houses in the town during fiesta.

Other traits

We noticed many other uniquely Filipino traits during our stay in Lucban—the legendary Filipino hospitality, for one. During the shoot, we couldn't make the models dress inside a sarong (as is usual) in the middle of the streets, so we went from door to door, asking for permission from the owners to dress the models inside their houses.

All but one (who seemed suspicious of the shorts one of the girls was wearing) gladly agreed, although we were also barraged with questions.

"*Para saan itong* shoot *na ito? Galing ba kayo sa* Maynila? *Saan kayo tumutuloy*?" We answered quietly, respectfully, "Sa INQUIRER *ho, sa* Maynila *po kami, doon po sa* Unica Flora." Some households were more eager than the others—we met a woman who brought out photos of her relatives in Manila, a couple of *lolas* who tried to get us to dress more conservatively. One house was filled with hormonal boys who tried to get a peek of the models dressing up.

Crowds gathered around us, and some brought out their digicams and camera phones to record their brush with almost-celebrities. (Here, anyone doing a shoot is a celebrity.)

At first, we waved them off angrily, telling them to mind their own business. But if doing photo shoots has taught us anything, it is that the Filipino is an *usisero*.

In between takes, we bumped into people we knew, bought world-class *buntal* hats (my co-stylist Aby Puzon bought five), shopped for the *longganisa* and *broas* our families told us to get, and took lots and lots of photos of the brightly colored houses, of ourselves, and of course, of ourselves with the sights in the background. The heat was oppressive, but it didn't matter—we marched through the crowds, *buntal* hats on our heads, and mixed our sweat with other merrymakers on the street.

There is nothing quite like a Philippine fiesta—sure, some people may think of it as a waste of time and money, since even hard-up folks spend a year's savings for these occasions (and what happens to those vegetables after they have wilted in the sun?), but it is a mistake to think that there is nothing gained from celebrating fiestas such as the Pahiyas.

After all, these celebrations are an integral part of our culture, not so much for the local specialties that each province churns out during fiesta, but for the Filipino traits that are awakened each time, in every little barrio in the country.

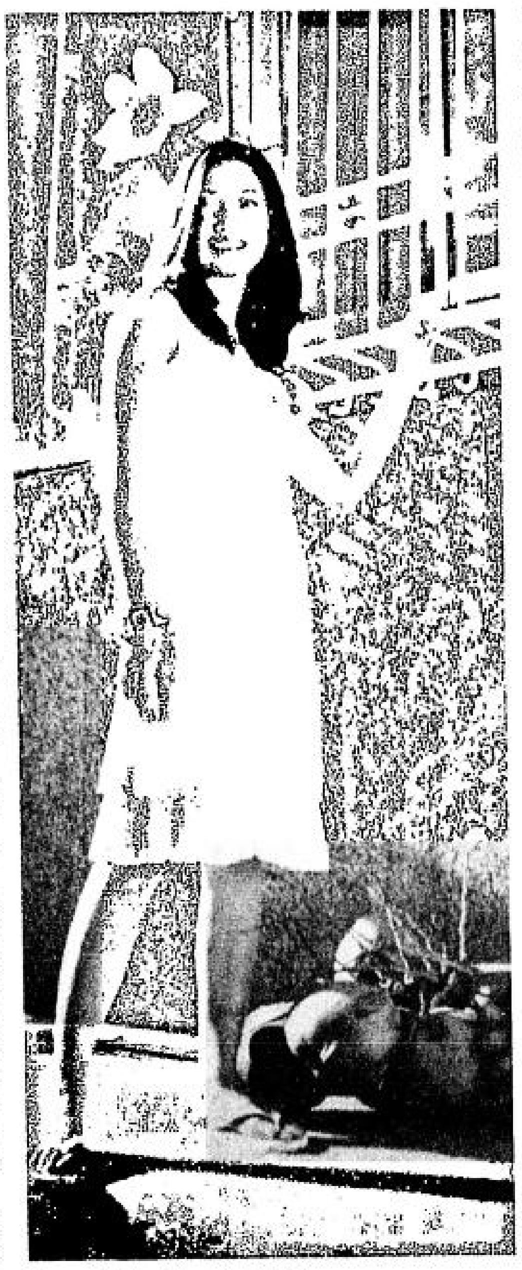
E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Visit Jake Verzosa at jakee.blogspot.com.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
TATIN YANG
(CONTACT 0917-8382846)
PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT:
JEROME VERZOSA
SPECIAL THANKS TO
FRANCINE PALINES AND FAMILY
MODELS: HAZEL AGUILAR AND
MARGAUX TECSON

On Hazel: Blazer, P3,298, U2 from Cinderella. Shorts, P649, F&H. Shades, P249, and necklaces, P249, F&H

ON MARGAUX: Cargo pants, P1200, YRYS. Top, P495, Freeway



(1 model, by the window)

On Margaux: Lace and jersey dress, P999, YRYS. Accessories by Get Happy.

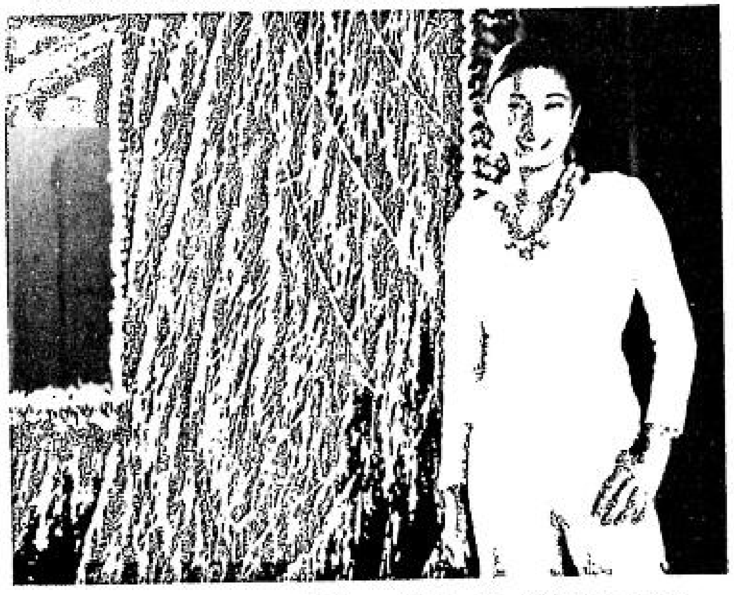
ON HAZEL: Capelet, P595; sash, P795, Freeway. Tank top, P399, F&H. Purple sash, P399, YRYS

ON HAZEL: Collared shirt, P795, U2 from Cinderella. Pleated skirt, P499, YRYS. Necklaces, P249 each, F&H

ON MARGAUX: Crushed velvet layered dress, P899, YRYS. Acessories, Get Happy

ON MARGAUX: Tank top, P399, F&H. Skirt, P 675, Freeway. On Hazel: tube top, P499, Freeway. Chiffon shrug, P299, YRYS. Shorts, P495, F&H

ON HAZEL: Chiffon peasant dress, P1200, YRYS. Acessories by Get Happy



ON MARGAUX: Tank top, U2 from Cinderella, P498. Cropped crocheted bolero, P595, Freeway. Cargo pants, P1200. YRYS

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Change starts here

For seven years now, the Ayala Young Leaders Congress has been doing its part in shaping youth leaders who make a difference

AYALA Foundation president Victoria Garchitorena expressed hope that the 71 participants of the 7th AYLC would use their leadership skills to improve their schools, communities and ultimately their country.

By Pam Pastor

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.
- John Quincy Adams

ROWS and rows of college students listened attentively to the distinguished speaker up front. When the talk was over, they asked intelligent questions and were given equally meaningful answers.

The setting didn't feel like a classroom, since the atmosphere was much more relaxed. It was another day at the Ayala Young Leaders Congress.

For seven years now, the Ayala Young Leaders Congress has been doing its part in shaping leaders who can make a difference in Philippine society. Conceptualized by Ayala president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II and Ayala Foundation president and Ayala Corporation managing director Victoria Garchitorena, the congress provides a venue for young leaders to interact with leaders of society, spend time with like-minded peers, strengthen their principles and ignite their passion for service and leadership.

"I am sure that you will remember this date for the rest of your life. Ask the 420 or so members of the Ayala Young Leaders Alliance who have gone before you. They all say it is a life-changing experience," Vicky Garchitorena said in her welcome remarks at the seventh congress, which was held recently in Tagaytay.

"I see before me the future leaders of our country, the cream of the crop—[71] of the most outstanding student leaders nationwide, " said Benjamin Abadiano, 2004 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership, in a very positive and uplifting talk.

"Your presence here and now is a confirmation of the belief that indeed, our country is rich with young people who are not only endowed with great talents and abilities but also blessed with a big heart for service."

The students come from different colleges all over the Philippines, after being nominated by their schools and passing the selection process, which included interviews with three or four executives.

Social discussions

The AYLC program includes serious talks and discussions about social issues concerning not just the young but the whole country.

The AYLC also serves as a tool by which young people can build a support group composed of their peers who also care about the same things.

It is also their chance to see other people who are already achievers in their respective fields. The relaxed setting gives the participants the freedom to dialogue with experts and learn from their insights.

But it's not pure seriousness. The participants also go through fun physical activities that challenge the body as well as the mind. This year, the young leaders also enjoyed a party, courtesy of Globe Telecom. Truly, the AYLC experience is a well-rounded one.

"We've hit on a good template. It's just the theme that changes year to year," said Garchitorena. This year's theme was, "Next Generation Leaders: Lessons From the Past, Challenges of the Future."

"We hope that slowly they will become agents of change not just as individuals but as a young group of Filipinos," said Zobel de Ayala.

Into themselves

Aside from bonding with their peers, AYLC also encourages the participants to look deep into themselves and discover a little more about their passions, their principles and their hopes for the future.

Simon C. Mossesgeld, director for programs for the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Center for Leadership, said to the participants, "How much do you know yourself? How deep is your self-awareness and understanding? What steps are you taking to be the best person you can be and the leader that you want to be? What are your mechanisms for regularly reflecting, refocusing, reconnecting and assessing yourself?"

It's true—these are young people looking for change. And the AYLC is one way by which they can gather enough tools to start facing the challenges today's world throws at them. The congress is the beginning of this journey towards making a difference.

Undoubtedly, their memories of AYLC will stay with these young people. With the help of technology, the previous participants keep in touch and continue to discuss issues that matter to them. Many of them have joined different companies and organizations and continue to work for the betterment of Filipinos and life in general.

This is youth empowerment at its best.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

AYALA president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II

AYLC participants take part in physical activities that also impart leadership values such as self-awareness, cooperation and trust.

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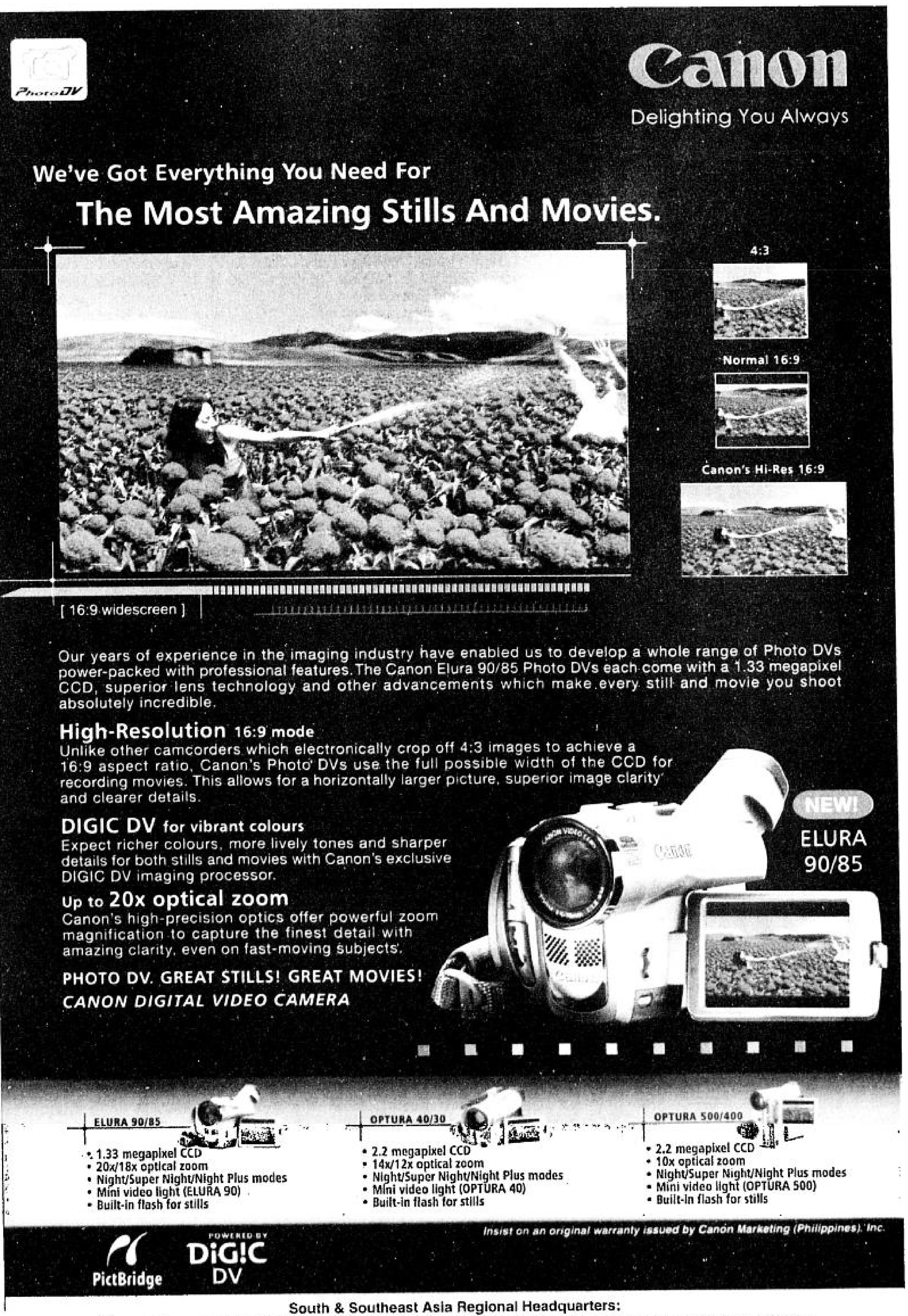

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Full speed ahead!

Meet four young Filipinos who live by the adrenaline rush of car racing

Ferdinand 'Enzo' Salas-Pastor

Team: Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO www.kineticf3.com

Car and engine: #9 Dallara F301 Torri Toyota

Nationality: Filipino

Birthdate: Jan. 24, 1982

Birthplace: Manila, Philippines

Education: Bachelor of Arts, major in Consular and Diplomatic Affairs, De La Salle University-College of Saint Benilde

Sponsor: Shell Helix, PSCO

Career achievements:

2004 F3 Youngest Filipino driver and No. 1 contender in the Asian Formula 3 Challenge, International Class (race series to be held in China, Malaysia and the Philippines)

· 2004 open class Junior BMW AFOS Series to be held in seven Asian countries.

* Event- Formula BMW AFOS Series

* Vehicle- Formula Car

· 2004 U.S.A Formula Renault Race Series

* Event- U.S.A Formula Renault Race Series

* Vehicle - Formula Renault

2003 1st runner-up Asian Formula 3 Series 2003, Promotional Class

(Race series in five countries)

How did you get into F3 racing?

My dad's been into racing ever since. Eventually he encouraged me to try it out. I started with Touring cars and this is my seventh year in racing.

What do you like about racing?

Winning! But seriously, I love the adrenaline rush that it gives me.

Do you consider yourself a safe driver in the streets of Manila?

I'm a defensive driver.

What's your advice to young people out there?

Do not spend money on illegal and senseless stuff. Save up!

Tyson Sy

Team: Castrol Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia

Car and engine: #28 Dallara F398 Toms Toyota

Nationality: Filipino

Birthdate: October 5, 1987

Birthplace: Manila, Philippines

Country of residence: Philippines

First racing vehicle: Go Kart

First race: 1999

Favorite road car: Mitsubishi Evo

Favorite track: Batangas Racing Circuit

Racing heroes: Michael Schumacher

Racing ambitions: To race in F1

Sponsors: San Miguel Corporation, Demvels, Petron

Career achievements:

1999: Philippine Shell Cadet Series, third overall

2000: Philippine Shell Cadet 60 Series, first overall

2001: Philippine Shell Cadet 85 Series, first overall

Philippine Shell Junior KT, second overall

2002: Philippines Intercon A ICS, third overall

2003: Philippines Shell Open Class, second overall

Formula BMW Asia, Rookie Class second overall, 6th overall classification

2004: Formula BMW Asia, 5th overall classification

Asian Formula Three Promotions Class, first overall Philippine National Formula Three Championship, first overall

How did you get into racing?

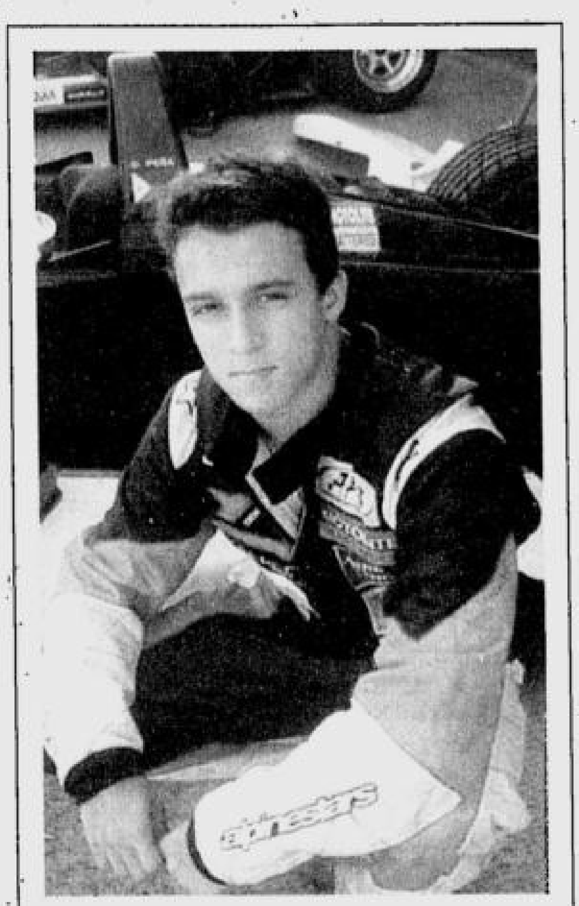
I started go-karting five years ago. Two years later, I tried the Formula BMW. Last year, I ventured into F3, and this is my second year in F3.

What do you love about racing?

Definitely the speed.

What's your advice to young people out there?

Try F3 racing. Or support it. Study well and be cool... like me. (Smiles)



Eduardo Juan P. Pena

Team: Team Goddard - Minardi Team Asia www.teamgoddard.com

Car and engine: # 27 Dallara F301/TOM's Toyota

Birthdate: July 8, 1987

Birthplace: Madrid, Spain

Nationality: Filipino

Height: 5'5"

Weight: 130 lbs.

First race: Cadet Karts

Favorite road car: BMW M3

Favorite track: Sentul

Racing heroes: Fernando Alonso

Racing ambitions: To drive for Minardi F1 then one of the bigger F1 teams

School: Brent Academy

Sponsors: MOF Company Inc., Hanjin Shipping, Pena y Cia, Speedzone

Career achievements:

2000 Cadet 65, fifth overall

2001 Philippine Junior KT Karts, first overall

2002 Philippine Intercon A-ICS Karts, fourth overall

Asian Zone Kart Champ, first overall

2003 Formula BMW Asia Series

2004 Formula BMW Asia Series, Minardi Junior Driver, sixth overall

2004 Asian Formula Three Promotions Class, fourth overall

2004 Philippine National Formula Three Championship, second overall

Who encouraged you to race?

My dad. He used to race way back, then one day he asked me to try it out.

How long have you been racing?

I've been racing for five years. But I started with karting. Then last year I shifted to F3.

What's your advice to young people out there?

Live your dreams, even if the support is not there.

Renan Ponce P. Morales

Team: Fujitsu-Ten Toyota Team TOM'S

Car and engine: #37 Dallara F398/TOM'S Toyota

Nationality: Filipino

Birthdate: May 19, 1980

Country of residence: Philippines

First race: 2003

Favorite road car: F430

Favorite track: Macau

Racing heroes: Ayrton Senna, Fernando Alonso

Racing ambitions: To race in Japanese GT

Sponsors: Paragon Brokerage, Clinbaxy Int., RPM Racing, Café Bec, Seed Capital Ventures, Shift

Career achievements:

2003-Philippine National Touring Car

2004-Philippine National Touring Car

This is your first year to race. What made you decide to try it out?

I love the fear that you feel when you're inside the vehicle. And that you control that fear with the wheels and your willpower.

Isn't F3 racing an expensive sport?

Yes, very much. One spends millions just to race. That is why we are very grateful to our sponsors who support us.

What are your achievements so far?

2003 Enduro Champion

2004 2nd Touring Car

Philippine team member, Marlboro F1 2005

What's your advice to young people out there?

Live your dream today.

Text and photos by JR Victorio

Theater is her passion

By Danicar Mariano
Contributor

Missy Maramara tries to infect her students with her love for the stage

MILAN Kundera once said: "We come to our chosen professions not by calculation or coincidence but by a deep inner desire."

It could be said that Missy Maramara is as an actress along Kundera's line. Missy has always emphasized that acting "should always be honest. It should be. Otherwise, the audience would not understand... How are they gonna get the message? It's your emotions carrying it to the reader."

Missy explains drama in Latin means "to do"—and in doing, one becomes. Acting isn't just a profession but a way of life for this 24-year-old thespian, teacher and artist. It's an avenue for connecting to people as well as experiencing and comprehending the world.

"I wouldn't be able to understand the world if I don't understand it the way I do, through theatre—you can study it in books you can read articles, but when you live it on stage, not just do pure technique but you live it."

Missy Maramara has delivered captivating performances in numerous plays. She has portrayed Lysistrata, Tisbea in "Don Juan," Katherine in "Taming of the Shrew," Sara in "Stop! Kiss," Woman 1 and the third woman in "The Vagina Monologues," (the English and Filipino version), and the Princess of France in "Love's Labors Lost."

All her hard work in these plays as well as her work as director in Rene Villanueva's "Awit ng Adarna" and "Usaping Puki—College Campaign in Blue with Ateneans," earned her the Loyola School's 9th Dean's Awards for the Arts in Theater.

One of the first graduates of the Theater Arts Program in 2002, she was a pioneer of the Fine Arts Festival in the Loyola Schools and has been its director for the past two years.

Aside from acting for ABS-CBN soaps and being an active alumna of Tanghalang Ateneo, she has also acted for professional theater companies such as Tanghalang Pilipino and Dulaang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas.

Sensitive to gender issues, Maramara was part of a group of students who pushed for the showing of the acclaimed feminist play, "The Vagina Monologues," in the Ateneo.

It's no wonder that she later joined Monique Wilson's progressive New Voice Company, which has mounted plays discussing relevant gender and social issues, plays such as "Angels In America," "Chess the Musical," "Top Girls" and "Rent."

'Stop! Kiss'

One of Maramara's most memorable performances was when she starred as Sara in NVC's restaging of "Stop! Kiss" in Republic of Malate.

Diana Son's "Stop! Kiss" is about two women who meet and, feeling a growing attraction toward one another, kiss. This kiss leads to a fierce gay bashing that causes Sara to fall into a coma.

It is a play that speaks about the tenderness of homosexual affection and the violence of homophobia. It's a play that the Philippine lesbian community is grateful for.

"'Stop! Kiss' calls on us to be aware of what's happening. It shows us how it really is. It's about people falling in love and accepting who they are," Missy explains. "You have to be very open-minded because plays nowadays tackle issues that are very real, very important but we chose to ignore. Ignorance is our worst enemy in the Philippines—*kaya tayo mahirap ay dahil wala tayo ng edukasyon na matino—kung di naman kulang.*"

Missy fervently believes in the curative power of theater to educate people and enhance critical thinking, while at the same time instilling idealism and opening minds.

She quotes her Dulaang Sibol mentor, Onofre Pagsanghan in saying "If you're not going to teach them idealism now, when else will they learn? So we have to teach them what social justice means, what gender equality means now."

Spunky characters

This Miriam College High School alumna relates that it was during her stint in Dulaang Sibol as Lady Macbeth that her mind opened up to the possibilities of theater. "That was when I confirmed that that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. So I went into Ateneo with theater arts as my first choice."

Maramara recalls that she has been into theater since she was five years old. "In kinder, we had a school play... we had auditions for Cinderella and I thought I was gonna be Cinderella and I was so happy because the teacher said 'very good' but apparently, [she cast me] as the step sister. But I enjoyed the role so much more than if I were Cinderella," Maramara remembers with a chuckle. "Ever since then, those were the characters I liked playing—the ones with spunk."

MISSY Maramara

Even though talented theater actors are not well compensated, Missy finds that she simply cannot do without the high she gets from acting.

"It's my life force. I can't imagine not doing theater. I explode when I don't do theatre. I get so depressed. I get jealous of everyone else who's performing. I do it because it's me. It's a large part of me. People have to keep reminding me, you're in a play, and I'm like, who said I'm in a play? I'm not performing, it's just me."

Passionate communicator

As a lecturer in the Ateneo de Manila English Department, Missy believes that her talent for performing greatly enhances her skill for teaching. She makes sure to always keep her students interested in the lessons.

"I don't like students to be bored with my performance—so same goes with teaching. Since I want them to learn, they shouldn't be bored, otherwise they won't learn... I use theater skills to keep them awake and surprise the all the time, to make them laugh, to make them cry—to bring their emotions to the extreme—and then you process [the experience]."

Missy adds that teaching has helped her better process her acting experiences by giving a logical flow to her understanding of it. It has helped her to be better organized in her performances.

At Miriam College where she also teaches, she facilitates drama workshops and directs plays. "Directing is a whole different experience from acting—when you're acting, you're just thinking of yourself, but when you're directing you're thinking of other people."

The deep empathy and sensitivity she derives from being an actress is also a much needed trait in directing.

Despite the undervalued state of theater in the country, Missy Maramara is a living testament that going into acting and following your passion is absolutely worth it.

Her advice to would-be thespians: "You really have to want it. If you don't want it, it's not gonna go anywhere. You really have to be honest and love it for what is."

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Wireless E-tailer Hits Big in Euro Zone

How wireless Internet can expand your business

Walter Ray Choi

"You get good ideas when you are relaxed," says Internet entrepreneur Rick Jison. "You could say I was pretty relaxed that day. I was on vacation with 7 beers by 5 pm, watching bikinis crisscrossing the beach all day," he said smile so big, as if he was recanting the best day of his life. "The idea hit me, as I left the bathroom and headed back to my sunset beer."

"This German tourist seemed to be arguing with one of the resort staff. I wish the alcohol would have made me forget that sight - Germans and their Speedos: they got to lay off the crack and wieners," said Jison as he laughingly shook his head. "I listened in just in case the girl needed some help with this sunburned Santa looking guy, but it turns out they weren't arguing at all. Germans just sound mad sometimes when they are not. He was just really insistent."

"'I will give you a 1000 Euro,' as he pointed to a cushioned wicker lounge chair so big, that it looked a bed with chair arms. 'I want to bring this back to Baden.' The lady at the resort politely declined. '1500 Euro. Please. I have to have it,' he said, sounding like Arnold bidding for his first Hummer. The resort employee had a grim smile as both she and I calculated what this guy was offering. '2000 Euro. Please,' the more he pleaded. I started to feel awkward the longer I listened so I walked away, but I couldn't stop thinking about how much money he was throwing down."

"I thought back to when I used to help my Mom order custom furniture in Negros. I figured the chair he wanted so badly would cost well below P10,000 to make. Santa was offering more than P130,000! It took a few more drinks before the idea settled in my mind. I can say opportunity knocked on my door before I hit the floor!" Rick said laughing at himself.

"I took pictures of tropical furniture at the other beach resorts in the area, and put them on a website when I got back," said Jison. "My web designer is a half German friend, and gave me the site translated in Deutsch as a bonus."

"The English website didn't get many hits, but the German site went nuts," said Rick excitedly. "I was getting all these multiple piece orders for custom furniture from scary sounding places like Bad Muender and Bad Essen. I later found out that "Bad" means natural hot springs in German, so it was other resorts making big orders. They wanted more or less the same designs I posted on the site, but in exact dimensions they were emailing me. German precision and the fact they are taller. All this time I didn't have an office for this growing business, as I would just subcontract with different furniture makers around Negros. The website was my shop, and I was constantly on the road checking out the quality of the orders, and making sure they were shipped. I would travel back and forth from the field to an Internet connection just to get the latest orders. I was losing time, money, and widening gaps between deliveries."

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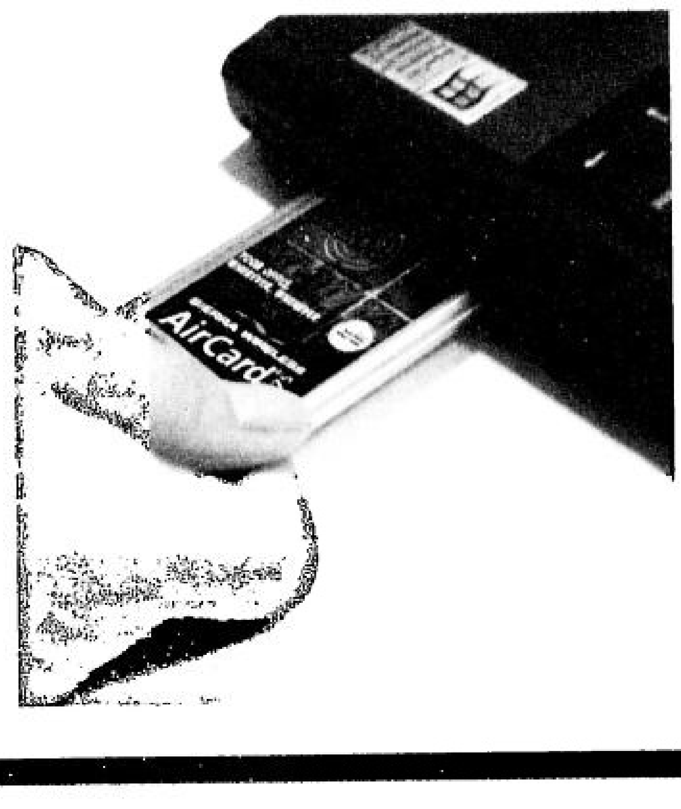
We ask Rick to what he attributes his success. "First, I'd like to thank Speedo Santa," he says with a laugh. "I would have no idea if it wasn't for him. Then to PLDT WeRoam. It enabled my business to both operate nationally, and sell internationally, with no strings attached," he pauses. "I mean wires attached."

We ask Rick what's up next for him. He pats his laptop bag that also has his PLDT WeRoam aircard and digital camera. "I'm off to check out some surf resorts in Siargao. Heard they have some pretty nice bamboo furniture there. Work, work, work," he says, trying to hide his grin.

PLDT WeRoam Discovery Tent

Find out what Rick is grinning about. Log on to www.pldtweroam.com. The PLDT WeRoam Discovery Tent is soon traveling nationwide to let you try the world of wireless access yourself. Bring your laptop, and see what it can really do.



Young woman of substance

By Danicar Mariano
2bU! Contributor

Meet Chiara Castaneda, a girl of immense energy and many awe-inspiring achievements at 22 years old

LUCK is when opportunity meets the prepared.

Some may say that Chiara Castaneda, or Kissa, was simply born lucky. But that's not it at all. Readiness for opportunity is something this 22-year-old has been honing her entire life with her philosophy of openness and receptivity.

"I am a very open person. I look at people as people, not as a white person or black person." Her mantra is to always "suppress my stereotypes and first impressions. I try to make sure to give everybody a chance."

She encourages diversity and uniqueness in people and things around her. A world-class traveler and globe trotter, she has been to over 15 countries in her short life thus far.

Unquenchable thirst

Her itch to go far and wide also extends to an unquenchable intellectual curiosity and an immense desire to leave nothing unattempted.

So when a classmate in UP asked if she wanted to try entering Ritsumeikan University in Japan, she was naturally game for it. She was accepted on a 100-percent tuition scholarship and later on bagged other honors like the UMAP Scholarship, the Oita Government Scholarship, the ANDO Momofuku Scholarship as well as the Tokushukai Scholarship.

Ritsumeikan University, which focuses on fostering international relations and emphasizing links between countries, widened her already comprehensive view of the world and reinforced her appreciation of diversity as well as the power of interaction for self-growth.

Any trouble adjusting to such a new environment was minimized by the fact that "the school didn't make you feel like an outsider. It felt like we were a community of people who just happened to be learning together. It was a family," says Kissa.

KISSA, already a success at 22

Last March, Kissa did her country proud by winning the university's President's Award when she graduated. The award is the school's highest honor, meant to acknowledge not just academic excellence but also relevant extracurricular activities that have left a mark in the school.

Busy life

Kissa has always believed that there is more to learn outside the four corners of the classroom and the pages of required readings. So while she studied hard, she also made sure she had fun in her spare time.

"What would the world be without fun? Most of the things I did were fun, light but also relevant," she says.

In her four-year stay in Japan, Kissa managed to juggle a very busy social life. She was the lifestyle editor of an online paper, publicized and participated in the DJ workshop club, worked part-time as a teaching assistant, helped direct Kumon camps for children and took part in the Bayanihan Filipino dance troupe, all the while learning to read and speak Japanese fluently and managing to be competent enough in Spanish that she won first place in the university-wide Spanish Speech contest held in 2002!

APU
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WITH her proud parents during her graduation

An even greater feat is that, through all these, she maintained an average grade of 3.2 (4 being the highest). Her numerous sleepless nights paid off as when, in the fall semester of 2003, her GPA reached a whopping 3.8, leading to the Dean's Prize, an honor given to the top achievers of each semester.

Asked where she got all that energy, Kissa simply says, "Life is too short not to fulfill one's dream."

With writing and cultural studies being her long-time passions, she, along with several other classmates, formed their school's first-ever online newspaper called APU Boundless. She served as its lifestyle editor, writing and designating topics on fashion, food, music, events and basically life in APU. The culture and travel articles, as well as the expression of APU's distinct culture, was highly appreciated in APU, it being a school that serves as a melting pot of diverse nationalities.

"We've had student summits discussing global issues, we've had business venture competitions, and we even had our very own APU Olympics. But something related to the arts, fashion, media or lifestyle? Nada, zilch, zero. Not until now... I am very happy to be part of the founding team of this circle, for I was able to contribute and leave a legacy just doing what I love, writing," says Kissa.

Writing career

Kissa enjoyed her two-year stint as lifestyle editor immensely. It's what made her decide that she really wanted to go into writing as a career. She is particularly interested in fashion because she considers it a portable art, reflecting the larger culture out there.

She also believes that fashion is a pertinent avenue for women to express themselves. "I think it's amazing for women to be mothers, bosses and workers, aunts and companions, all at the same time. And yet even with these multiple roles, they still manage to look good and give attention to detail," she says.

She has also become interested in humanitarian and women's causes. "I grew up in an environment where women were very independent and took charge, so when I discovered that this was not the case elsewhere, I became interested in the roots of this inequality and started looking into women's rights."

Kissa's interest in women's studies led her to represent her school as a UN delegate in the UN Study Program, as well as to do her thesis on the life of the "impossibly perfect woman" as foisted by a certain women's magazine. She also recently took a fashion journalism course in London's Central St. Martin's School of design.

But instead of staying in Japan where she stood to earn a lot of money in big corporations, she opted to come back to the Philippines to be with her family and work as a fashion writer in Preview—one of her favorite local magazines.

Kissa has many more plans for the future. She plans to publish a book by 25, wants to be a full-fledged entrepreneur and dreams of becoming a TV host.

Highly proficient in Japanese and competent in Spanish, she is now trying to learn a new language—French. Given her track record, she's sure to be cooing in French in no time at all.

Ingenious beauty invention

Lora Gabol

RECENTLY, I stumbled upon what I consider the most ingenious invention in the realm of beauty: hair extensions.

Having cut 14 inches off my hair a couple of months ago, the last thing I expected to do a few weeks down the line was have 18 inches of hair attached to my new bob. This job, along with a great deal of curiosity, got the better of me, however, so I decided to give it a shot.

Walking testimonials

At work, Preview magazine's Isha Andaya walked around with brand-new waist-length locks that perfectly matched her boho-glam style. Occasionally, I'd bump into makeup artist Effie Go, also sporting an extra-long mane that went well with her tall, lithe physique.

There was no doubt about it. A long, cascading mane will always turn heads.

Upon hearing that both of them had theirs done with the help of Bergmann Hair Systems and Visage Salon Acropolis, I quickly had my own appointment set up.

A few days prior to my scheduled "makeover," I began searching online for sites that offered feedback on hair extensions. I learned that a lot of celebrities currently sporting long locks have actually been faking it all along! Halle Berry, Paris Hilton, even local actress Sunshine Dizon (who, incidentally, has hers done and maintained at Bergmann) are just a few examples of the girls who have added inches to their hair and, more importantly, pulled it off beautifully!

Knowing I was in good company took the edge off my apprehension, and actually left me excited to have long hair again.

The big day

I began bombarding Bergmann's Aileen Cruz with questions before I was even within the same room as my hair extensions. Will they be painful, how long will the process take, can I shampoo and brush my hair without special attention, and so on and so forth.

I was assured that since they will be using 100-percent human hair and a hair and scalp-friendly method of attaching them, I can pretty much go about my day-to-day activities with no hassle whatsoever.

I sat down with an intensively trained (I say intensive, because she answered any remaining questions I had with confidence) technician who analyzed my hair color and texture to make sure that the bunches of hair to be attached matched my natural locks perfectly.

It took 155 bunches of hair, painstakingly attached to thin sections close to my scalp, to make my suddenly long mane look God-given, each attached using black rubber hulls and a pair of heated tongs that secured their grip.

At first, I was worried about the hulls being visible, but since none of them are positioned too close to my hairline, no one would know better. Though I could subject my hair to regular styling, I was advised to keep the hulls out of contact with any heated styling tools or oil-based products, as both will weaken the hulls' grip.

This, pretty much, was the height of daily maintenance hair extensions required. I was also given a special brush with gentle bristles that were gentler to both the hair and the rubber hulls—the only tool I needed to tote every day.

'Reverse makeover'

Because most people had yet to digest that I had been sporting short locks for the past two months, it took at least 10 seconds for them to realize my hair had sprouted a foot longer than it had been the day before.

It was fun making jokes about drinking Mane and Tail when people asked how it was possible for my hair to grow so fast, but I credit how incredulous they were to how natural the hair looked. And I got no comments about wearing a wig, which had to be a good sign.

The verdict

It has been a couple of weeks now, and I continue to love my extensions. It's amazing how I was able to change my look overnight (and how!), especially since I know I can change it yet again after just a couple of hours in a salon chair!

Having had long hair for many years before my big chop, I was surprised that long hair extensions feel different from the mane I used to have, though their color and texture are the same. For one, my extensions feel lighter yet look bouncier, nothing like the limp and lank mop my locks turn into when they're this long.

I also use less hair product, since technically, this 'do has less strands than my usual thick mane—though I've developed a tougher hair care conscience knowing that my extensions don't get nourishment from my scalp the way natural hair does (hello, hair treatments!).

All in all, I recommend extensions for gals who aren't squeamish about experimentation, or wish for a beautiful overnight transformation for a special occasion, like a big party, a wedding or a debut.

It could be costly, but since you can keep the hair and have it attached and reattached whenever the need calls, I consider it a worthy investment. I myself have been half-kidding about growing my hair again, having it chopped off and turned into extensions so I can have the option of being Rapunzel one special day of the week—then go back to being my regular wash-and-wear self the next.

These magic strands don't just extend your hair, but your options as well, way longer than 18 inches!

Call Bergmann Hair Systems at 6339173 or visit their office at Unit 1410, 14/F Jollibee Plaza Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center. Call Visage Salon at 6350355 or visit their office at Unit D Magnitude Commercial Building 186 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, QC.

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